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Behind Farm Crisis: French Fear the Loss of a 'Way of Life'

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

Behind France's threat to scuttle the European Community's agricultural agreement with the United States is the fear of loss of farm exports, but also — and perhaps more important — the loss of a "way of life."

As the largest farm producer in the Community and world's second-largest agricultural exporter after the United States, France will suffer proportionately more than its EC neighbors if the proposed GATT compromise succeeds in limiting subsidized exports.

Even though most French people live and work in cities and towns, they remain close to the soil — or imagine they do. They carry an idealized picture of the rural life from which their parents and grandparents escaped. The farmers are popularly seen as keeping alive national and family values.

After an EC agreement this year that will limit the subsidies provided by the Common Agricultural Policy, the government lost any hope of attracting the farm vote in parliamentary elections next March. Nevertheless, it does not dare take the risk of bucking popular sentiment by sacrificing the farmers on the GATT altar.

The farmers represent only about 6 percent of the labor force, a sixteenfold drop in the past 40 years, but last year they produced 186 billion francs worth of exports. In 1980, each farmer produced enough food to feed seven people. Now he can feed more than 40.

"Europe and the United States share the identical

problem that in the past 25 years agricultural production has increased by leaps and bounds, with no corresponding increase in population," said Bruno Bonduelle, president of Bonduelle SA, one of France's biggest food processing companies. "Both America and Europe are capable of feeding at least three times their present populations."

Former Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy noted that for the past 40 years the EC and France had been encouraging farmers to be more productive.

"Now we are telling them to set aside land in a country where it has been a mark of civilization not to leave a single inch uncultivated," he said.

The reform agreed to earlier this year calls on French farmers to leave fallow or unproductive up to 15 percent of cultivated land. The proposed GATT agreement could require a doubling of the set-aside land, according to some experts, because it would entail a 21-percent cut in subsidized exports.

Already as a result of the changes, average farm incomes this year are down about 6 percent to 153,000 francs (about \$28,000), according to the National Institute of Statistics. Anger mounts as the income drops. Militant farmers, out of control of the unions, have dumped cow dung on town hall steps, stalled traffic with tractors, blocked streets with fiery barricades and have again threatened action against trucks bringing produce from other EC countries.

The demonstrations, violent and irrational, have a touch of the absurd. Farmers driving U.S.-built tractors to blockade a McDonald's restaurant gets most of its produce from French suppliers. In reply, McDonald's took out half-page ads in newspapers nationwide Thursday assuring that it buys French.

Far from reprimanding such behavior, Agriculture Minister Jean-Pierre Soisson has said only that he "understands" the farmers.

The existence of 36,000 small communes, as many as in the rest of the EC together, buttresses the formidable local opposition to further rural decline. And the fact that many deputies and senators also serve as mayors in rural areas gives the farmers a preponderance in Parliament out of all proportion with their numbers.

Whatever happens in the GATT negotiations, the number of people working the land in France seems almost certain to retreat much further. Michel Jacquot, a senior EC agricultural official, told the monthly *Le Monde des Debats* that France could get by with only 300,000 farmers. Some experts put the figure even lower than that.

Mr. Jacquot's view counts, for he is the director of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, which distributes the agricultural production subsidies that swallow up half the EC's budget, and which over the years have been instrumental in encouraging farmers to produce as much as the land will bear.

Mr. Jacquot pointed to a future in which a relatively small number of highly efficient farmers would produce the bulk of the nation's food. Some small farmers would continue to grow high-quality or specialized products. Some would be required to maintain the landscape. Some might find jobs in rural industries or leisure activities. Some would have to alternative jobs in the nearest town with

work on the farm. For many, however, the future looks bleak.

This trend has been emerging for many years. Farmers scratching a bare living from 20 or 30 hectares inhabit a different world from the grain barons in the Paris basin farming vast flat fields for the export market. Last year, French cereal growers produced 34.4 million tons of wheat. The United States, with a population more than four times greater, produced 53.9 million tons.

In a recent book called *La fin des paysans*, ("The Last of the Peasants"), Henri Mendras observed that while the farmers are popularly depicted as paragons of ecological virtue, it is they who have ripped up hedgerows, ancient stone walls and trees, overburdened the ecosystem with fertilizer and turned huge tracts of land into pastures — always helped, of course, by EC subsidies.

Some ecologists see the present crisis as a way of cutting back on the intensive farming methods that have changed the appearance of the countryside, and of turning open fields into wooded land and recreational areas for city visitors.

Such a transformation entails a change of mentality in France, and perhaps also a greater degree of understanding by France's EC partners. French agricultural production — now almost a quarter of the EC's total — and German industrial potential were the foundation on which the EC was built. If that equation now has to be changed, France may look to its partners for adequate compensation.

The farmers, meanwhile, say they are not interested in handouts. They say they were trained to produce, and that is what they want to go on doing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Altered Virus Is Said to Curb AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A harmless virus carrying an engineered genetic pattern is able to test tube experiments to keep the AIDS virus from reproducing inside its favored blood-cell target, researchers report. In a study to be published Friday in the journal *Nature*, researchers from Ohio State University and City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California, said they had shown that AIDS resistance could be inserted into the blood cells using another type of virus that carries altered genes.

The researchers said the work showed that the other virus, known as AAV, or adeno-associated virus, was an effective way to carry a new gene into blood cells. Work is under way now to test the technique in animals. No human trials will be planned until the animal experiments are completed, the researchers said.

China Aide Sees Russia 'Alliance'

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Qian Qichen raised the possibility Thursday that China and Russia would form an "alliance" to help ensure stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We would not exclude an alliance relationship" with Russia, Mr. Qian said at a news conference here, adding that such a relationship would "play a positive role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide."

Capping a weeklong visit to Russia and three other former Soviet republics in Central Asia, Mr. Qian said there had been no discussion of Chinese arms purchases from Moscow. He and his Russian counterpart, Andrei V. Kozhevnikov, initiated an agreement on basic relations that is to be signed when President Boris N. Yeltsin visits Beijing in mid-December.

Ousted Georgian Leader Vows Fight

HELSINKI (AP) — Georgia's deposed president, Zviad K. Gamsakhurdia, vowed Thursday to continue fighting by political means against the government that succeeded him.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who arrived in Finland unexpectedly late Wednesday evening from Istanbul, said he would not cooperate with Georgia's new head of state, the former Soviet foreign minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, nor with his men.

"I consider that I'm not able to cooperate with a terrorist and a criminal," Mr. Gamsakhurdia said. He said he wanted to "save his people." Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a dissident and a human rights advocate during the time of the former Soviet Union, was elected president of Georgia in May 1991 but was ousted in January by armed opposition forces who regarded him as a dictator.

Laos Names Ruling Party Chairman

BANGKOK (Reuters) — Prime Minister Khammat Siphonvan of Laos has named head of the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party in place of the late President Kaysoone Phommavhane, official Laotian media said, according to a Western diplomat on Thursday.

Mr. Khammat, the former defense minister who took over as prime minister from Mr. Kaysoone in August, was named party chairman at a Central Committee meeting of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party in Vientiane on Wednesday, said the diplomat, who was contacted by telephone in the Laotian capital.

The appointment followed the naming of Nouhak Phommavanh as state president in place of Mr. Kaysoone, who died Saturday. Both appointments were announced in official newspapers and on state radio, the diplomat said. The party chairmanship is the most influential political position in Laos, which has been a one-party state since the Communists came to power in 1975.

UNITA Shuns Angola Parliament

LUANDA, Angola (Reuters) — The country's first freely elected parliament opened on Thursday, but the third of its deputies who represent the main opposition party, UNITA, failed to appear.

The ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which won 129 seats in the 220-member assembly, and other smaller parties went ahead without UNITA. The seats reserved for the 70 elected deputies from the former rebel movement, the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola, stayed empty.

Fernando van Dinen, prime minister in the outgoing government, was elected president of the assembly. President José Eduardo dos Santos is expected to announce the formation of a new government in the next few days.

For the Record

A badly damaged flight recorder has been recovered from the wreckage in China of a Boeing 757, firming hopes that it will indicate the reason the plane crashed, news organizations reported Thursday. All 141 people aboard were killed Tuesday when the China Southern Airlines jetliner hit a mountain ridge near Guilin in the southern Guangxi Zhuang region.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Paris Excluded From Transit Strikes

PARIS (Reuters) — Underground train drivers on the Paris Metro on Thursday called a call to resume their strikes.

Outside Paris, however, unions say they will halt public transport Friday in dozens of French cities in a 24-hour strike on wage claims. The Paris Metro's four unions said they called off a rush-hour strike that had been scheduled for Friday in a dispute over bonuses. The stoppage badly disrupted Metro traffic in the morning and evening rush hours last week.

Union officials said their move to protest a new urban collective agreement would affect 52 provincial French cities. They said strikes would be held in Marseille, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble and other major cities and towns.

A four-day shutdown of the French Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe by banana growers ended Thursday when the protesters accepted France's pledge to maintain subsidies. Thousands of tourists, stranded on the islands since Monday, when the planters blocked airports and highways, will begin leaving Saturday, airline officials said. (AP)

Air travelers in Italy could face delays and cancellations on Friday, when assistants to air traffic controllers go on a 7-hour strike. (Reuters)

Russia will withdraw subsidies and give airlines the right to set their own fares on most routes starting Jan. 1, with fares expected to be up to six times higher to meet fuel prices and increased salaries for employees. (Reuters)

Fewer than 50 percent of Spain's public-sector employees heeded a call for a one-day strike on Thursday over pay, the government said. Another one-day strike has been called for Dec. 15. (Reuters)

Egyptian authorities are resorting to harsher and more elaborate measures — including curfews, helicopter patrols and bulldozing the homes of suspects — to combat Islamic fundamentalists who have vowed to keep up attacks on the country's vital tourism industry. (AP)

International experts met in Morocco to discuss ways of financing a 7,400-kilometer (4,600-mile) highway across the top of Africa from Nouakchott in Mauritania to Tobruk in Libya. The Moroccan public works minister, Mohammed Kabaji, led the meeting in Fez that the project would cost \$15 billion and take 30 years. (Reuters)

Yeltsin Bars Any Compromise Over His Free Market Plans

By Michael Dobbs

Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The government of President Boris N. Yeltsin said Thursday that it would refuse to compromise with the conservative opposition on major elements of its free-market economic policies but signaled that it was prepared for some tactical concessions.

The government strategy for preserving the essence of the economic program approved by the International Monetary Fund was outlined by acting Prime Minister Yegor T. Gaidar in an address to parliament. It came five days before the convening of the winter session of the Congress of People's Deputies, at which government policies are expected to come under strong attack.

Mr. Yeltsin has already begun to reshuffle members of his team, accepting the resignation of information minister Mikhail N. Polovinkin, a leading radical, and dismissing the head of Commonwealth television. But he squashed rumors that he would replace Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozhevnikov, one of the few remaining card-carrying liberals in the Russian government and a frequent target of conservative criticism.

"There will be no change in the team or its policy," Mr. Kozhevnikov told reporters before a meeting with the Italian foreign minister. Someone wants really badly for this to happen. But it is not going to happen."

Radical deputies quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling them that he would make no further changes to the government before the Congress opens Monday. The working parliament, or Supreme Soviet, rejected a call Thursday night from hard-line deputies for an immediate vote of no-confidence in Mr. Yeltsin's government.

In his remarks to parliament, Mr. Gaidar made some concessions to the centrist Civic Union, which holds the balance of power in the 1,048-member Congress between radicals loyal to the president and the "irreconcilable opposition" of hard-line Communists and bourgeois nationalists. But he said that there could be "no retreat from the strategic course of reforms motivated by short-term political interests."

"We warned beforehand that we are not ready to combine incompatible approaches," he said. "There are a number of points which we are not prepared to discuss."

The acting prime minister said there could be no return to direct state-controlled distribution of economic resources, as some members of Civic Union have proposed, and no freezing of prices and salaries. He also drew a line against any relaxation in monetary policy, which he said could lead to hyperinflation, and a big intervention to prop up the collapsing ruble on foreign exchange markets.

Mr. Gaidar did, however, signal that the government was prepared to consider Civic Union proposals for helping loss-making state companies make the transition to a free market. Economic experts from Civic Union and the government have reached preliminary agreement on a plan that will allow Russia to get through the winter without any significant rise in unemployment.

It is still unclear whether the gestures made by Mr. Yeltsin toward the opposition will buy enough votes at the Congress to avert a government crisis. Several deputies said that the concessions announced so far, and the limited reshuffle of the government, did not appear to go far enough.



Acting Prime Minister Yegor T. Gaidar making a speech Thursday in the Russian parliament as Speaker Ruslan I. Khasbulatov looked over him. Mr. Gaidar said he would refuse to freeze prices.

German Suspect Is Held In Firebombing Deaths

By Stephen Kinzer

New York Times Service

BERLIN — The police said Thursday that they had arrested a 25-year-old man in connection with the firebomb attack that killed three Turkish citizens in the West German town of Molln on Monday.

The suspect, identified as Michael Peters, is a resident of Gudow, a town about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Molln. The police said they arrested him on Wednesday night.

Reports on German radio said Mr. Peters was known in Gudow as a follower of far-right ideologies who often used neo-Nazi phraseology. He reportedly was unemployed.

According to information released by police investigators, Mr. Peters and 10 associates formed a secret "rightist terrorist organization" that sought to firebomb three hotels for foreigners in the weeks before Monday's attack.

"We are investigating now whether members of this organization were also responsible for the murders in Molln on Nov. 23," Alexander von Stahl, a federal prosecutor, said in a statement.

No other members of the organization have been arrested. The prosecutor's statement said that Mr. Peters led a gang of masked assailants who tried to storm a hostel for asylum-seekers in the town of Pritzlar, 25 kilometers (15 miles) from Gudow on Sept. 5. It said the assailants retreated after finding the hostel guarded, but hurled firebombs at the police before driving away.

Prosecutors also alleged that Mr. Peters was involved in a Sept. 5 attack in which firebombs were thrown through the windows of a hostel in Gudow, and a similar attack on a hostel in Kollow, another nearby town.

Prosecutors said that in connection with those cases, Mr. Peters was being held for investigation on charges of murder, attempted arson and disturbing the peace. He did not say why they had not arrested him until after the firebombing in Molln.

Western Nations Refuse to Fly Iranian Official to Sarajevo

By Blaine Harden

Washington Post Service

ZAGREB, Croatia — The foreign minister of Iran was denied permission on Thursday to fly aboard Western military aircraft taking humanitarian aid to the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, reacting angrily Thursday night to the refusal, said he was probably kept off Western airplanes because "Iran is against the international alliance among Western countries toward massing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Mr. Velayati, who is demanding increased UN action to protect Bosnian Muslims from Serbian aggression, had planned to meet Thursday in Sarajevo with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Instead, Mr. Velayati managed only to speak with him by telephone. The foreign minister said he secured a promise from Mr. Izetbegovic to attend a meeting next week in Jidda of the Islamic Conference, which is scheduled to discuss what Islamic countries should do to assist Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbian forces have seized control of 70 percent of the republic, forcing more than 1.5 million Muslims from their homes, and the Bosnian government says 130,000 people have been killed, most of them Muslims.

The governments of Germany, France, Britain and Canada refused Mr. Velayati a seat aboard their relief flights, according to a UN official here who did not want to be identified. No official reason was given.

The Iranian foreign minister chose not to ask for transport from the United States, which is also participating in the Sarajevo airlift, the UN official said.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which coordinates the Sarajevo airlift with equipment and funding from participating Western governments, had offered the Iranians a landing slot on Wednesday during which they could have flown their own aircraft to Sarajevo.

But Mr. Velayati's plane arrived here too late from Tehran to take

advantage of the landing slot, and the high commissioner apparently did not offer the Iranian a second option.

Iran has refused to contribute any money to the massive multinational relief program that is flying and trucking about 900 tons a day of food and medicine to more than a million recipients across Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Velayati made it clear in a press conference on Thursday night that his government preferred to "help Bosnia directly, with oil" and other supplies. He said that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had been unwilling to help Iran care for refugees in his country.

Iran is the only Islamic country that has been accused publicly by the U.S. government of trying to send weapons to Bosnia-Herzegovina in violation of a UN embargo on arms shipments to republics of the former Yugoslavia.

The State Department leaked news in mid-September about the seizure in Zagreb of a planeload of Iranian weapons bound for Bosnia. Mr. Velayati reiterated Thursday night what has been an official Iranian position on the arms seized in Zagreb, namely that Tehran knows nothing about the incident.

Reliable government sources in Sarajevo said last week that Iran had been smuggling relatively small quantities of arms and ammunition into Bosnia-Herzegovina in recent months.

The United Nations refuses to lift the arms embargo despite repeated pleading from the Bosnian government. It argues that the embargo has had the perverse effect of rewarding the well-armed Serbian aggressors while penalizing the poorly armed Bosnian Army.

Mr. Velayati said that neither his government nor other Islamic governments had any intention of sending weapons to Bosnia-Herzegovina "outside of international law."

In other developments inside Bosnia-Herzegovina on Thursday, a UN convoy carrying 80 tons of food and medicine reached the isolated Muslim town of Gorazde,

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TRANSITION / TIME FOR REFLECTION

★ POLITICAL NOTES ★

For Clinton, a 'Turkey Trot' on Turkey Day

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — President-elect Bill Clinton was putting politics on the back burner Thursday to watch what comes out of the oven.

A "traditional family dinner" was planned at the Arkansas governor's mansion, a spokesman said Wednesday. Among family members expected to attend: Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea; his mother, Virginia Kelley; stepfather, Dick Kelley, and his wife's parents, Hugh and Dorothy Rodham.

Mr. Clinton started his day by running in Little Rock's annual "Turkey Trot" 5-kilometer run along the Arkansas River. Organizers said Mr. Clinton has run in the past six Thanksgiving Day races. He paid his \$15 entry fee and took his place at the starting line with about 300 other runners who came out in the brisk weather. (AP)

Transition Progresses to Its Next Phase

WASHINGTON — With the presidential race now three weeks past, the first phase of Mr. Clinton's transition has ended and the second phase — the actual construction of a new government — is about to begin.

For Clinton aides here and in Little Rock, the main preoccupation for the last three weeks has been putting the machinery of the transition into place — setting up the elaborate network of committees, advisory panels and working groups that are designed to funnel recommendations and policy options to Mr. Clinton and his top advisers.

Now, with the final announcements of who will head the various "cluster groups" that will audit federal agencies for Mr. Clinton and his aides, that machinery is in place. After a brief pause for the Thanksgiving holiday, which probably will be the last break most senior Clinton aides get before the inauguration, the transition teams are expected to begin producing reports and recommendations.

The role of the cluster groups announced Wednesday will be to audit each agency in the vast federal bureaucracy. "They're fact finders," said a Clinton aide involved in the process. "It's a bureaucratic task rather than a policy-making task."

The job is to "find the land mines," he added. (LAT)

Ethics: Women's Groups Keep Pressure On

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate ethics committee has had no female members. It has been criticized for interminable investigations. And it failed to pursue recent allegations of sexual misconduct by a senator.

But women's groups are insisting that the panel investigate sexual harassment allegations against Senators Bob Packwood of Oregon and Daniel Inouye of Hawaii — and they promise to exert intense pressure to make sure it happens.

The six-member panel, formally the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, will have openings. It is losing its chairman, Terry Sanford, Democrat of North Carolina, who was defeated, and Vice Chairman Warren B. Rudman, Republican of New Hampshire, who did not seek re-election.

"If they wind up without a woman again we'll make an issue of it," said Betty Roberts, a former Oregon Supreme Court justice and former state legislator who signed a letter demanding a "thorough and prompt" ethics investigation of Mr. Packwood. "It would be politically crazy not to appoint a woman due to this pending investigation," she said.

The Washington Post has reported that numerous women have accused Mr. Packwood and Mr. Inouye of making unwelcome sexual advances during their long Senate careers. Mr. Packwood has said he is sorry if he acted improperly, and Mr. Inouye denies the accusations. (AP)

Clinton to Keep Sports Ideas to Himself

NEW YORK — President-elect Clinton likes watching sports because they give him one area where he can enjoy being analytical and not worry about answering to anybody.

But don't expect him to voice his opinion of coaches or try to influence them in any way.

Reminded in an interview that President Richard Nixon once sent a play to George Allen, the Washington Redskins coach, Mr. Clinton said no one should expect that of him.

"Everybody likes to second-guess the president, so it's really fun to sit there and call plays, because a football coach or a basketball coach, they're about the only people a president can second-guess," Mr. Clinton said. (AP)

Quote-Unquote

A senior adviser to Mr. Clinton, describing recent activity in the transition process:

"If you wanted to accurately describe what we've been doing, you'd write, 'Bill Clinton and his aides spent the last few days sitting and thinking about what the government should look like.'" (LAT)

Away From Politics

- Wild turkeys are back to stay in New England after having disappeared for more than a century, wildlife experts say. In western Massachusetts, the introduction of 37 wild turkeys in 1972 has produced a population of 8,000 to 10,000, a state biologist said.
- A man infected with the virus that causes AIDS has been convicted in Portland, Oregon, of attempted murder for having had unprotected sex with a 17-year-old girl. Alberto González, 28, also was found guilty of attempted assault, delivery of marijuana and contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor.
- The operator of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline will pay Alaska and the federal government \$32 million to settle lawsuits over its failure to respond quickly to the Exxon Valdez spill, officials said. Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., a consortium of companies formed to run the pipeline and terminal at Valdez, was in charge of the initial cleanup in the disastrous 1989 spill in Prince William Sound.
- A U.S. aircraft carrier fired missiles at a Turkish ship, killing five people, because sailors mistook a drill for a real attack, a Norfolk, Virginia newspaper reported investigators as finding. The carrier Saratoga fired two missiles at a Turkish destroyer during a NATO exercise Oct. 1 in the Aegean Sea. Investigators determined that sailors awakened for a midnight drill thought the carrier was under attack and fired.
- Slightly used nuclear fuel from the defunct Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island, New York, will be shipped to France for reprocessing under a plan announced by the state agency charged with demolishing the plant. Scheduled to begin next year, the shipments have prompted fears that the precedent could eventually contribute to the spread of plutonium.
- The troubled Los Angeles school system averted insolvency when a state judge threw the issue of pay cuts for teachers into arbitration, but now the schools face the strong possibility of a teachers' strike.
- President George Bush declared 18 Mississippi counties a disaster area following a string of tornadoes. The move clears the way for temporary housing grants and low-cost loans. (AP, NYT, UPI)

Brief Vacation Gives Clinton a Chance to Ponder Personnel

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — President-elect Bill Clinton took a break from transition activities for some family activities Thursday, and prepared for a brief California vacation to ponder personnel choices for his new administration.

After a Thanksgiving Day dinner in the Arkansas capital, Mr. Clinton and his family were to leave Friday for a four-day vacation at the home of friends in Southern California.

The president-elect had been immersed in interviews with prospective cabinet members Tuesday and Wednesday, and longtime associates said it would be typical of him to pull in lots of information and interview candidates, then go away for the weekend to consider his choices.

On Wednesday, Mr. Clinton met with former Governor Bruce E. Babbitt of Arizona and Representative William B. Richardson, Democrat of New Mexico. The visits followed meetings with Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Democrat of Texas; Senator Timothy E. Wirth, Democrat of Colorado, and Robert E. Rubin, an investment banker.

Mr. Bentsen and Mr. Rubin are believed to be under consideration for Treasury secretary; Mr. Wirth, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Babbitt are thought to be contenders to head the departments of energy or interior.

Sources within the transition said that Mr. Clinton had also met with Representative Leon E. Panetta, Democrat of California, who is considered a candidate for director of the Office of Management and Budget. Last weekend, sources said, Mr. Clinton met with Alice M. Rivlin, a former Congressional Budget Office director, who also is considered a contender for the Office of Management and Budget job.

Mr. Clinton has said that he was close to a decision on "a few" cabinet appointees, and campaign officials have said that his first appointees were likely to be members of his economic team. He has also said that he sees the Energy Department as part of the economic hierarchy of his administration.

"He's always said that he wants to come out with his economic team first and I think that still holds," said George Stephanopoulos, a spokesman for the transition.

With the increase in activity, a source in the transition effort said that final decisions could come relatively soon after Mr. Clinton returns from California.

The transition team has "spent a huge amount of time going through lists of people, talking and looking at résumés," said a ranking transition official. "But time is really crunching down on us."

Although Mr. Clinton had said ethics guidelines for his new administration would be announced a few days after the transition guidelines were in place, Mr. Stephanopoulos said that process was taking longer than expected because the president-elect has been spending most of his time on cabinet appointments. Mr. Stephanopoulos said the staff hoped to have the guidelines in place before the end of the year.

Despite the comings and goings of the recognizable politicians, Mr. Clinton and his aides have remained tight-lipped about personnel decisions, which are being managed by Warren M. Christopher, the transition director.

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "wanted to discuss the economy and other issues with Bentsen and he wasn't able to see him last week when he was in D.C."

"With Wirth, he's helped a lot on the campaign and I think he wants to cover a lot of issues that are in the senator's area of expertise," Mr. Stephanopoulos said. "And I would say the same for Governor Babbitt and Congressman Richardson."

Mr. Bentsen, who met last week with Mr. Christopher in Washington, has been at the top of the list of speculation about the Treasury post. He has indicated he would be happy to remain as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, where he has power and independence, but would consider an offer from the president-elect.

Mr. Clinton also had a physical examination Wednesday that was described as routine. After the exam, Mr. Clinton said he had made progress losing weight since the election, adding that he seeks to lose at least an additional 10 pounds (4 kilograms). (AP, WP, UPI, LAT)



Mr. and Mrs. Bush arriving in New Hampshire, for Thanksgiving in nearby Kennebunkport, Maine.

U.S. Opens Criminal Inquiry Into Search for Passport Files

By Walter Pincus

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has opened a preliminary criminal investigation into the pre-election search by State Department officials of Bill Clinton's passport files, according to a Justice Department official.

The inquiry will center on whether provisions of the Privacy Act were violated. Under that law, the State Department is prohibited from disclosing information from passport records and other consular files without the prior written consent of the individual involved.

A State Department official said, "We are aware of the Justice Department investigation and are cooperating."

Sherman M. Funk, the State Department's inspector general, released the results last week of his monthlong investigation into the search of Mr. Clinton's passport file and the department's consular records. Mr. Funk concluded that the two-day search, on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, had been directed by Steven K. Berry, then acting assistant secretary of state for congressional affairs, and Elizabeth M. Tamposi,

then assistant secretary of state for consular affairs.

Mr. Funk said in his report that the two political appointees had undertaken the searches to gather information that could be helpful for the re-election of President George Bush. He also disclosed that the White House chief of staff, James A. Baker 3d, and at least one top aide, Janet Mullins, were kept aware of the effort, though there was no evidence uncovered that they had "orchestrated" the searches.

Mr. Funk, after consultation with acting Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger, has continued his investigation into the matter, a State Department spokesman said Wednesday.

Ms. Tamposi was dismissed from the State Department on Nov. 10, and Mr. Berry was removed from his job last week but has been permitted to remain employed at the State Department until the Jan. 20 change of administration.

At the time the inspector general's report was released, Mr. Eagleburger announced that Mr. Funk had not found that any criminal

law had been violated. But Mr. Funk's report, which has drawn criticism from Democrats on Capitol Hill for not being thorough, did suggest a number of areas where possible Privacy Act violations could have occurred.

For example, according to the report, Ms. Tamposi had Mr. Clinton's four passport applications delivered to her Virginia town house late on the evening of Sept. 30. After reviewing them, she called Mr. Berry and one of her assistants, Michael Brennan.

Mr. Berry said Ms. Tamposi offered to describe the contents of the documents to him, a statement Ms. Tamposi denied making. Their conversation is believed to be one of four that were monitored by the Operations Center of the State Department. Describing the contents of a passport application to someone who has no governmental need for that information could be a violation of the Privacy Act.

On Oct. 1, a Tamposi assistant and longtime career State Department employee, Carmen A. DiPlacido, took the Clinton file home with him for safe keeping but without Ms. Tamposi's knowledge, according to the report. Mr. DiPlacido maintained, according to the inspector general's report, that only his wife and daughter were home that night. Mr. DiPlacido was recommended for disciplinary action for his part in the affair.

Republicans See Rebuke To Clinton in Georgia Vote

ATLANTA — Republicans hailed the victory of Paul D. Coverdell over Senator Wyche Fowler Jr. in a runoff election as a rebuke to President-elect Bill Clinton, who campaigned for the incumbent, and an admonition to the president-elect to temper some of his plans.

But Democrats scoffed at reading such sweeping conclusions into the narrow victory by Mr. Coverdell, a former Peace Corps director in the Bush administration.

They suggested that the Republi-

cans, hungry for some good news after the defeat of President George Bush, were grabbing at straws, trying to build some fighting spirit before Mr. Clinton takes over.

In assessing his victory in the runoff on Tuesday, Mr. Coverdell put himself in the middle of the Republican cheerleaders and the Democratic scoffers.

At a news conference where he was asked how the runoff compared with the Nov. 3 results, in which Mr. Clinton defeated Mr. Bush by about 5,000 votes out of slightly more than 2 million cast in Georgia, he said that one was the "natural extension" of the other.

"The voters were driven by a need for change," said Mr. Coverdell of his 51 percent to 49 percent victory. Mr. Fowler had a 48 percent to 47 percent lead in the Nov. 3 ballot. "That was part of President Bush's problem here three weeks ago and that was part of Senator Fowler's problem as well."

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Space Lab's Reason for Being Takes a Hit

By John Noble Wilford
NEW YORK — Ten years of experiments in growing larger, purer protein crystals in the low-gravity environment of space have produced disappointing results and have yet to fulfill earlier, often extravagant expectations or justify the high costs of space missions, a team of scientists has concluded.

The scientists, writing in the journal Nature, said the experiments showed that in many cases the virtual absence of gravity can affect the growth of biological crystals, sometimes altering their size, quality and structure.

But they said the tests had "not yet accomplished any significant breakthrough in protein-crystal growth" and so far had failed to demonstrate that this was "a wise way to spend ever more scarce government research dollars."

Their blunt assessment dealt a blow to some of the scientific arguments in support of a program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to build and orbit the \$32 billion space station Freedom, scheduled for full operation in 2000. Crystal-growing research and production were often among the bright prospects used to justify the station's costs.

Space agency officials and scientists who have flown experiments on the space shuttles disputed the

assertions. Although there have been no major discoveries, they say, the research has led to important insights into the structure of proteins.

The scientists raising the criticism are Dr. Barry L. Stoddard of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle; Dr. Roland K. Strong, a biologist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California; Dr. Anthony Arrott, president of Payload Systems, Inc., in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Dr. Gregory K. Farber, a biochemist at Pennsylvania State University.

They evaluated the results of experiments flown on the space shuttle and their own two experiments flown recently on the Russian space station Mir.

Their analysis of the shuttle research showed that 20 percent of the protein crystals grown were an improvement on their Earth-grown counterparts. In the remaining cases, no crystals were produced at all or they showed no improvement.

As for their research on Mir, the scientists said that 24 percent of their experiments produced crys-

tals that were "clearly superior to their Earth-grown counterparts and in which the improvement could be attributed only to micro-gravity."

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New Show of Firepower In Streets of Mogadishu

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

MOGADISHU, Somalia — An increased number of heavily armed vehicles — including a tank driven by fighters of one of Somalia's warring clan leaders — suddenly appeared in the capital on Thursday as tension mounted over reports of United States forces joining United Nations troops here.

The U.S. offer was made by President George Bush on Wednesday and presented by Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger to Butros Butros Ghali, secretary-general of the United Nations. Their meeting took place as clan fighters and gunmen stepped up attacks on relief agencies struggling to feed nearly 2 million starving Somalis.

The United States would most likely use air force planes to transport troops from other countries to Somalia and deploy a unit of 2,000 Marines aboard a navy vessel off the Somali coast, a senior administration official said Thursday.

The rise in violence here, including the shelling Tuesday of a United Nations ship carrying 10,000 tons of wheat as it tried to enter the Mogadishu port, has resulted in a rapid depletion of food stocks across the famine zone in central

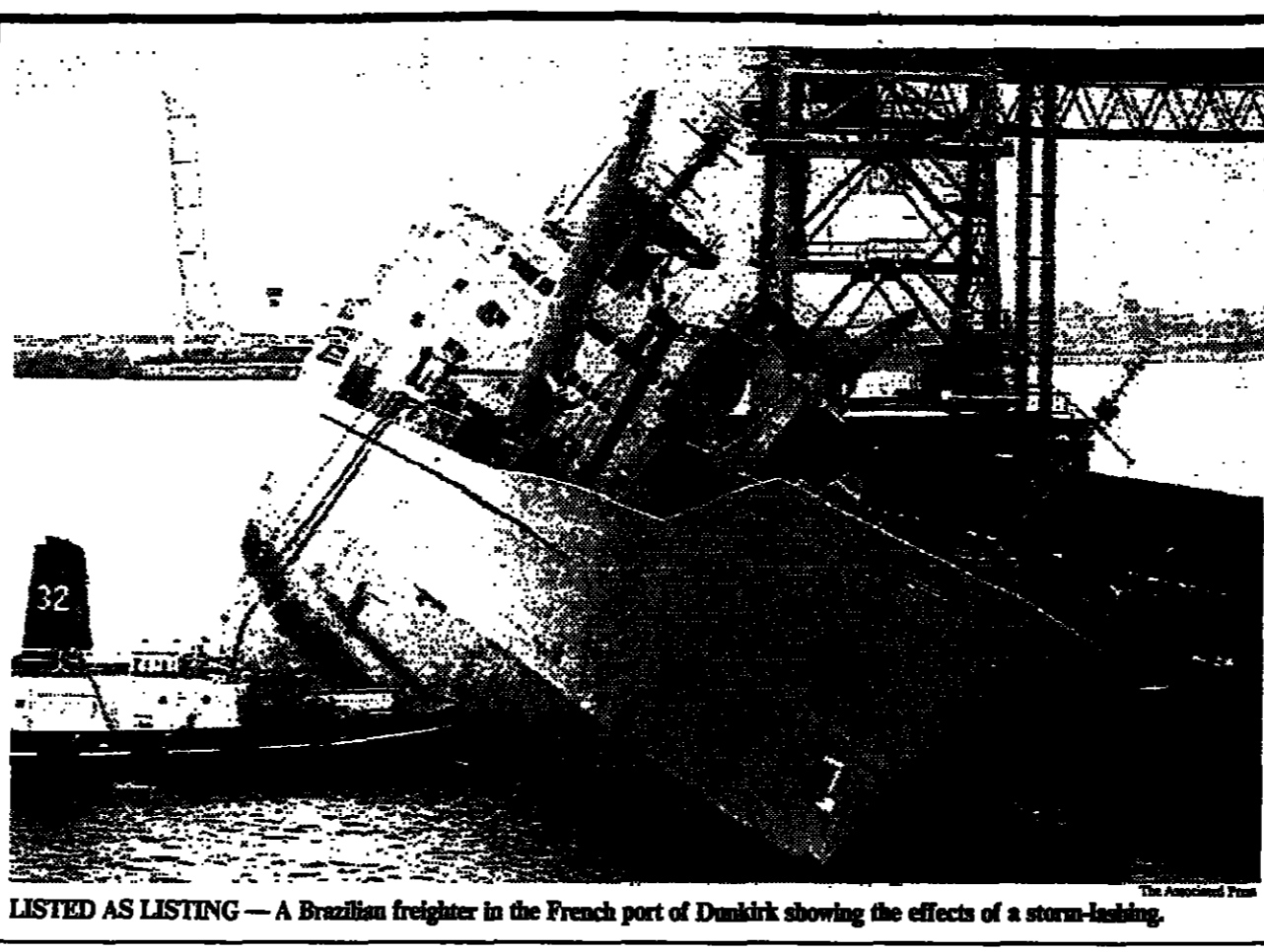
and southern Somalia, aid officials said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday that it had cut rations to one-quarter at its 300 kitchens in Mogadishu on Tuesday, serving only 523 calories' worth of rice, oil and beans.

Even at the slashed quantity of rations, the Red Cross said it had only three days' worth of food left in its Mogadishu warehouses. As the supplies dwindle, two ships, carrying 3,500 tons of rice each, waited offshore Thursday as they have for days, for the port to open. The United Nations ship was diverted to the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

A senior U.S. official said that as international food deliveries by plane and ship were stepped up in the last month, increased amounts of food had been looted. The official, Andrew Natsios, a coordinator for the United States Agency for International Development, who has been directing the United States relief program in Somalia, said that 80 percent of the donated relief food was "being looted or used as protection money."

He said it was time to get tough with the Somali warlords, adding that the looting had doubled since mid-October.



LISTED AS LISTING — A Brazilian freighter in the French port of Dunkirk showing the effects of a storm-lashing.

MONACO: Business Boom No Cure for the Ills of a Lilliputian Paradise

(Continued from page 1)

In September on the 10th anniversary of the death of his wife.

"He still loves her enormously," a palace official said, "and time has not made it any easier for him." But part of that lingering sadness, officials say, is linked to mounting anxiety that the consequences of his family's behavior may be escaping Prince Rainier's control.

Prince Albert, 34, the heir, seems to evince little interest in marriage, a fact that troubles many Monégasques, whose livelihoods depend on the perpetuation of the dynasty. He is considered a dour son but shows little aptitude for business and none of Prince Rainier's flair in promoting the virtues of the principality.

Princess Caroline, 35, the elder daughter, seems ensnared by her official duties as the leading lady in what the author Somerset Maugham called "a sunny place for shady people."

Caroline has been slow to emerge from mourning the death of her husband, Stefano Casiraghi, in a speedboat accident two years ago. She has been spending most of her time in the southern French village of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, where she believes that her three children can get a more normal upbringing.

She is said to be on the verge of marrying the French actor Vincent Lindon, if he will fulfill Prince Rainier's condition of converting from Judaism to Catholicism.

Princess Stéphanie, 27, shows signs of settling down — though not in the way her father intended. She has abandoned a brief singing career and is about to give birth out of wedlock to a child fathered by her former bodyguard, Daniel Ducruet.

"In Monaco, the royal family means everything," says Nadia Laocoste, a close friend of Prince Rainier's who for many years served as the palace spokeswoman. "This place takes its identity from them, and we all adapt as they evolve."

In the past, every emotional twist in the family's destiny, captured under exclusive contract in the pages of the magazine Paris Match, embellished Monaco's image and augmented its income.

"A tear, a dollar, a smile, a dollar," was how another French newsweekly summed up the Grimaldi publicity machine. While the Windsors of Britain and other European monarchies have always abhorred news reports about their bad marriages, lavish lifestyles and scornful attitudes toward the working class, the Grimaldis have thrived on scandal.

Prince Rainier's decision in 1956 to marry Grace Kelly transformed Monaco's fortunes. Despite the mutual animosity of their families, the marriage blossomed and

brought an infusion of trans-Atlantic glamour, as well as American clients, to the principality.

Wealthy foreigners are still drawn by the absence of personal income tax, the warm weather and secure surroundings. Prince Rainier has diversified the economy in recent years, and tourists, business conventions, banks and real estate concerns now bring in much more income than the casino receipts.

But Monaco faces stiff challenges. Despite the Grimaldi's reputation as skillful survivors, the principality's detachment from reality would seem to bode ill as

Europe confronts a tense and unpredictable era.

With Prince Rainier showing the fatigue and sorrow of his years, and his offspring looking so untested and uninspired as custodians of the Rock's future, some observers are predicting that the dynasty might succumb to a round of political, economic, and social turbulence at the end of the line when Prince Rainier leaves the scene. But palace staffers think otherwise.

"The rich will always be with us," said one. "And they will always need a place like Monte Carlo."

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CELLS: Fetal Tissue for Brain

(Continued from page 1)

disorder caused by the death of brain cells.

Now, the researchers reported, the patients can live independently and move almost normally. Mr. Carillo even rode a bicycle. Brain scans showed that the fetal cells were producing chemicals that the patients' brains had lacked, the researchers said.

Although the number of patients was small, the improvements were consistent with what had occurred in animal studies and were so marked that experts felt they could not have occurred by chance.

The U.S. research groups, led by Dr. D. Eugene Redmond Jr. of Yale University and Dr. Curt R. Freed of the University of Colorado, implanted fetal tissue into 10 patients with Parkinson's disease.

They reported, somewhat but definite, effects. Patients did better in tests touching their thumb to their forefinger and tapping their feet, for example. They were less likely to freeze and had smoother movements in general.

But the methods used by Dr. Redmond and Dr. Freed differed from those of Dr. Widner. With one exception, the U.S. researchers used just one fetus per patient, for example, whereas Dr. Widner and his colleagues used as many as seven.

Dr. Widner also implanted the tissue into a larger area of the brain. Experts said these methodological changes could account for the differences in results.

The American results are promising, experts said, but they were even more heartened by the Swedish results.

"It's spectacular," said Dr. C. Warren Olanow, a neurologist at the University of South Florida and a leader in fetal tissue work. "The results are terrific. It's an order-of-magnitude greater improvement than anything we've seen."

Dr. Widner said he and his colleagues had recently used their method with two patients who have Parkinson's disease. "The effects are about as large" as in the pa-

tients he reported on Thursday, he said.

But he warned that much work remains to be done before fetal cell implants can move beyond experiment and become therapy. For example, he said, "we need to boost the survival rate of transplanted tissue."

To obtain enough tissue, he said, multiple abortions must be scheduled for within hours of the five-hour fetal implant operation. The scientists need tissue from multiple fetuses because only 10 percent of the implanted fetal cells survive.

Dr. Widner said his group and others have focused on fetal cell implants because fetal brain cells can survive for as long as a week in the laboratory, whereas adult brain cells die within 10 minutes. This abrupt death of adult cells makes it impractical to think of using, say, brain cells from adult organ donors for implant operations, Dr. Widner said.

In an article in the New England Journal of Medicine, an expert dismissed the claim that enough useful tissue could be obtained from miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies, as the Bush administration had maintained.

The story behind the operations on Mr. Carillo and Ms. Lopez began in 1982, when the two injected themselves with a synthetic heroin made by an underground chemist in San Jose, California. They woke up the next morning from in place, unable to move or talk.

Dr. J. William Langston, director of the California Parkinson's Foundation in San Jose, ended up caring for Mr. Carillo and Ms. Lopez and several other who had taken the tainted heroin.

Dr. Langston eventually discovered that a previously unknown poison, called MPTP, in the synthetic heroin had destroyed the substantia nigra of the patients' brains, an area needed for movement. This is exactly the part of the brain that slowly dies in Parkinson's disease.

TROOPS: U.S. Offer on Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

The UN operation to achieve its objectives. He told the council that 70 percent to 80 percent of all the humanitarian aid was being looted.

"In the meantime, the cycle of starvation and blackmail," he said, "must be broken and security conditions established that will permit the distribution of relief supplies."

Fear of Retaliation

The U.S. offer to send troops to Somalia — and empower them to use force to deliver aid — could prompt the country's rogue gunmen to turn on foreign aid workers.

ELECTION: Multiracial Plan

(Continued from page 1)

sharing power with losing parties, at least for a transitional period. The government favors power-sharing arrangements in the post-apartheid political system, but would prefer them to be permanent, not merely transitional.

In its own move toward compromise, the government has agreed that a permanent constitution can only be written by an elected constituent assembly, a step it initially resisted because such a forum is likely to be dominated by the ANC

in a country that is 85 percent non-white.

But the two major sides still disagree on how much that constitution-writing body will be bound by constitutional principles, on such delicate issues as federalism and regionalism, established during preliminary negotiations.

They also differ over the size of the supermajority needed to adopt a new constitution, and over the nature of deadlock-breaking mechanisms to be put in effect should the constitution-writing body be unable to reach agreement.

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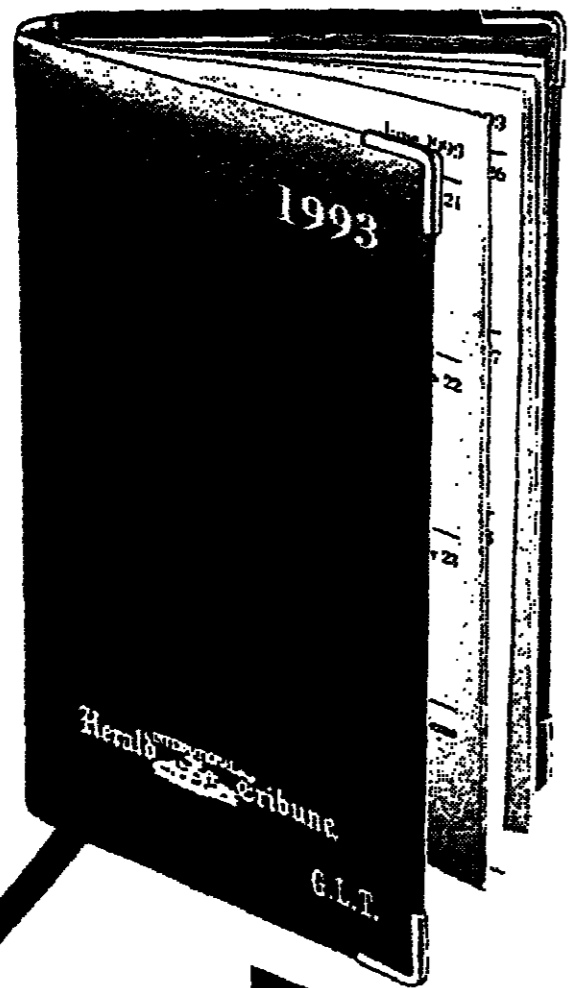
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U.S. to Send Commerce Secretary To Beijing

WASHINGTON — A day after the White House angered China by announcing that its top trade official would visit Taiwan, Commerce Secretary Robert E. Roemer announced that she would travel to Beijing next month.

Carla A. Hills, the U.S. trade representative, will become the first cabinet official to visit Taipei since President Jimmy Carter transferred U.S. diplomatic recognition to China on Jan. 1, 1979.

Ms. Roemer will become the first cabinet official with economic responsibilities to visit China since the democracy crackdown in 1989.

Her trip was announced Wednesday, the same day that the Chinese government said it was releasing prominent dissident, Bao Zunxin, from prison 19 months before completion of his sentence.

Ms. Roemer and Mrs. Hills will try to persuade their hosts to spend more money on American goods. The United States ran a trade deficit of \$12.69 billion with China last year and a \$9.85 billion deficit with Taiwan. Only trade with Japan posted a larger imbalance, amounting to \$43.44 billion last year.

The State Department insisted that the timing of the two visits was coincidental.

"The two trips were decided on independently, on their own merits," a department official said.

But a Commerce Department official said his agency had been trying for several weeks to set up a visit by Ms. Roemer and that China accepted on Tuesday.

Joseph Massey, who was assistant U.S. trade representative for China and Japan until last summer, said he doubted that the timing was a coincidence.

"I think obviously it would be awkward for China to have one of the key international economic members of the president's cabinet in Taiwan without accepting a visit from the commerce secretary," Mr. Massey said.

In Taipei, a trade official said that Taiwan and the United States would sign an agreement to increase trade and investment when Mrs. Hills visits.

Taiwanese and U.S. officials are still discussing aspects of the non-binding pact, said Tsai Lian-sheng, an official of the Board of Foreign Trade.

He declined to give details, but state radio said it might cover participation by U.S. firms in Taiwan's six-year, \$300-billion development plan.

(NYT, Reuters)



Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president, with immigrant Jewish children Thursday at an immigration center in Israel.

Mitterrand, in Israel, Draws Skepticism

By Clyde Haberman

JERUSALEM — A big question in Israel this week is whether President François Mitterrand of France is good for the Jews, and the unqualified response on Thursday from political leaders was "yes."

Not everyone here was so sure. Mr. Mitterrand, who is on an official visit to improve France's relations with Israel and to increase its influence in the Middle East, raised passions among some Jews earlier this month by having a wreath laid in his name at the tomb of Marshal Philippe Pétain.

The purpose was to honor Marshal Pétain as a hero of World War I. But the marshal went on, in World War II, to lead the collaborationist Vichy regime, which rounded up tens of thousands of French Jews and deported them to Nazi death camps.

So in these days when neo-Nazi thugs are sending shivers through Europe, Mr. Mitterrand's wreath-laying gesture on Armistice Day left many Jews cold. Nor were they assuaged by assurances Thursday from Israel's prime minister and foreign minister that the French president was "a friend of Israel" and, among European politicians, "the man who best knows Jews and Jewish history."

When Mr. Mitterrand went to lay another wreath Thursday, this time at the Jerusalem memorial to the Holocaust, he was greeted by 20 protesters wearing the striped uniforms and yellow Stars of David of the concentration camps.

Newspapers have also roused up the president for having icily told an Israeli television interviewer that Vichy's crimes were a French affair and no one else's concern.

"This was a miserable declaration," wrote Tom Segev, a columnist for Ha'aretz, one of many here who wondered aloud and in print how the Holocaust had become, in Mr. Mitterrand's phrase, "an internal matter."

Barely a day passes here without some sort of echo of the rightist xenophobia and violence that have gripped Germany and other parts of Western Europe.

On Wednesday, when Mr. Mitterrand arrived, the Israeli press reported a sudden burst of interest on the part of European Jews to emigrate to Israel. The numbers are not large, certainly not in comparison with the thousands of Jews landing each month from the former Soviet Union. Nonetheless, there reportedly were 1,000 immigrants from France in the past year, a 30 percent increase from 1991. In

West Jerusalem. It was left to his foreign minister, Roland Dumas, to meet with the Palestinians in the city's eastern sector.

Mr. Mitterrand also denounced the Arab economic boycott of Israel and signed several economic agreements, including one on French help to modernize Israel's railroads.

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Ex-Prime Minister Denies Any Deal With Japanese Mob

By David E. Sanger

New York Times Service

TOKYO — Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, attempting to quash a scandal that is threatening his own career and Japan's governing party, broke a long silence Thursday and denied that he struck a deal with organized crime figures to become prime minister in 1987.

In two hours of testimony at Japan's parliament, Mr. Takeshita, a canny veteran of Japanese politics, conceded that he had sought to silence rightists who were cruising the streets of Tokyo in sound trucks, blaring mocking praise of Mr. Takeshita. But he said that he had never sought, directly or indirectly, the intervention of one of Japan's leading mobsters to get the trucks off the streets.

Mr. Takeshita was forced to resign as prime minister in 1989 after disclosures of his involvement in a separate influence-peddling scandal, one in which he had long denied involvement.

While the casts and plots of the two scandals were different, they had a common thread: Ambitious Japanese businessmen, seeking allies in the political world who could cut through Japan's endless red tape and regulations, used vast supplies of hidden cash to finance campaigns, silence critics, and solve political problems.

In recent days, even Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa — who resigned as finance minister during the Recruit scandal — has said publicly that he was taken aback by the rising public distrust of the national government. In recent months, he said, that distrust has "grown to an abnormal extent."

There is mounting speculation that Mr. Miyazawa, although not touched by the current scandal, may be forced to "purify" the party. Polls show that public support for his cabinet has fallen to between 15 and 20 percent.

But the opposition parties have remained in disarray, failing to capitalize on the Liberal Democrats' unpopularity.

"This could be a very long winter for Miyazawa," a senior Western diplomat said. "If everyone else was not also tainted by the scandals, he might be gone already."

The allegations that drove Mr. Takeshita to testify Thursday were made by Hiroyasu Watanabe, the former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, a fast-growing transport firm. He has told prosecutors that, at the request of Mr. Kanemaru, he approached Sumitomo Ishii, the leader of one of Japan's biggest organized crime groups. Mr. Ishii then interceded with the rightist group that had been seeking to block Mr. Takeshita's rise to president of the Liberal Democratic Party, and thus the nation's prime minister. The sound trucks were silenced.

Mr. Kanemaru later accepted a \$4 million contribution from the trucking concern, and it was that transaction, a violation of campaign financing laws, that led to his resignation. He also paid a token fine, prompting public protests that a less powerful figure would have been imprisoned. Mr. Watanabe was questioned by both ruling and opposition party legislators Thursday at the Tokyo Detention Center, where he is being held. Mr. Kanemaru is scheduled to be questioned Friday at a hospital that he entered for an eye operation a week ago.

China Warns West Over Hong Kong

Agence France-Press

BEIJING — China warned Western countries on Thursday to keep out of Hong Kong affairs, reacting to the efforts of Chris Patten, the British colony's governor, to garner international support for democratic reforms.

"It is inappropriate for any other country to make irresponsible remarks on this matter," said Wu Jianmin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman. He reiterated that any differences over the colony should be settled by Beijing and London.

Decisions on Hong Kong are to be China's sole domain after the territory's return to the mainland in July 1997, the spokesman added.

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INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

Humane Intervention

On the traditional day for celebrating what so many Americans are given, it was appropriate on Thanksgiving Day yesterday to consider what so many other people are not given. In a few places in the world, hunger is still a function of an absolute shortage of resources. But in most places it is palpably the product of decisions taken by people. There are decisions flowing from economic choices, bad choices of organization and management, some of which are being remedied in the wake of the discrediting of Soviet-style socialism. But the decisions of most concern today flow from political choices — choices by those with power to inflict starvation and death for political purposes. This is the spectacle the world sees most starkly in Bosnia and Somalia. The same outrages are to be found in other countries as well. In Somalia, civil strife has toppled the structure of government and the very notion of sovereignty, leaving in place warlords and bandits who seize upon internationally provided relief supplies as the coin of the local realm. In Bosnia, Serbian forces have practiced new refinements of extortion and siege; they now dispatch women and children to block UN truck convoys from feeding stricken Muslim towns. This is not to say that Americans have discharged their responsibility to care adequately for their own. Bread for the World charts rising requests for emergency food assistance and rising numbers of Americans living below the poverty line. Still, on Thanksgiving Day 1992 the focus was on the foreign battlefields, where there is an international readiness to provide food, but where violence keeps it from getting through. The fading of the Cold War was greeted as opening the way to a safer and more humane and prosperous world. Some part of this vision has had to be put on hold while people struggle with the convulsions and the surges of human suffering that have actually resulted. In this effort there are continuing frustrations but also, it must be noted, a tentative progress. In just a few years the idea has been established that countries that fail to care decently for their citizens forfeit their claim to sovereignty and invite vulnerability to outside political-military intervention. Two variants of "humanitarian intervention" are now undergoing a crucial field testing in Somalia and Bosnia. It is the "new" idea on the international scene. It has already failed a great many people, but on its prospects rests the fate of a great many more. — THE WASHINGTON POST.

When a Candidate Is Ill

American hearts go out to former Senator Paul Tsongas, who has just learned that a growth in his abdomen is cancerous. Mr. Tsongas was admired everywhere with his tell-it-like-it-is campaign for the Democratic nomination this year. The fates have not been kind to this courageous public servant, who has already survived two previous bouts with cancer. But even as concerned citizens pray for his speedy recovery, it is important to recognize that his individual plight points to a public problem: How can the electorate learn whether candidates for the nation's highest office are healthy enough to handle it? If Mr. Tsongas had gone on to win, America would now have a president-elect stricken with a debilitating, conceivably life-threatening disease. It is always possible that a stricken president could have his cancer removed or controlled with only minor impact on his job performance, but there are more frightening scenarios. The stricken leader might face arduous radiation or drug therapy that could sap his energy and divert his attention just when he most needed to master his new responsibilities. Or the cancer might eventually kill him, possibly while he was in office. The electorate was given only sketchy information about Mr. Tsongas's previous bouts with cancer. In 1983 he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the infection-fighting lymphatic system. In 1986, when the lymphoma got worse, he was given a radical new treatment — a bone marrow transplant — in an effort to cure him. When his health became an issue during the primaries, his doctors at first said he had been free of all traces of cancer ever since, suggesting that the radical procedure had cured him. Only after he dropped out of the campaign did they acknowledge that he had suffered a "localized relapse," suggesting that the cure may not have been complete. Now a cancerous growth has been found in Mr. Tsongas's abdomen. Whether it is related to the previous lymphomas or is a new tumor is not yet clear. But this third appearance of cancer suggests that the electorate needed more complete information on the health of its candidates. At a minimum, it would be wise to require all presidential candidates to make their full medical records available for evaluation to an independent panel. Better yet, all serious candidates might undergo examination by independent experts. No system can detect all ailments — or tumors that have not yet emerged. But the case of Paul Tsongas provides poignant evidence that more searching scrutiny is needed. — THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Frazzled Europeans

Americans who worry that the language they speak is becoming an overly politicized matter — be they English Only types, supporters of bilingual education or foes of politically correct diction — might contemplate the frazzled and increasingly multilingual Europeans. The ever-worsening language changes facing a uniting Europe — the topic for a recent conference in Washington under the auspices of the European Institute — are primarily a matter of daunting logistics. But they also turn out to be a proxy for much more deep-seated concerns about national and cultural identity. Multilingualism, Americans are used to hearing, is one of the great advantages that Europeans have over Americans in pursuing international business — and lack of it is one of the major shortfalls that education reformers in America must rectify. But, as ever larger numbers of sophisticated European bureaucrats are learning, the business of switching among foreign languages brings problems in its wake. Undoubtedly the most frazzled of European linguists reside in Brussels, where such organizations as the European Community and NATO employ the world's biggest trans-

Other Comment

Two Paths in Ex-Yugoslavia Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Kosovo, Vojvodina (which has Hungarian and Croatian minorities), and the Muslim Sandjak. But it has refused to accept observers from the UN or EC, a decision which President George Bush is seeking to reverse. In Macedonia, the way ahead is clear. In Kosovo, the UN has soon to decide whether to go against the wishes of Belgrade to protect the Albanian majority. In each case, the lesson of Yugoslavia's disintegration is that it pays to act early and decisively. — The Daily Telegraph (London).

The Spirit of Hitler Hitler's spirit went for a midnight stroll at a German town on the Baltic. This evil spirit set afire two buildings where Turks had made their homes. The material and moral destruction, the suffering and shame caused by the Nazi regime have resurrected like a black cloud on Germany's horizon. The state remains helpless. One should be sorry for Germany, not angry. — Sabah (Istanbul).

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The High Costs in Bosnia Can Only Grow Higher

By Frederick Bonhart
BRUSSELS — On Sunday, heavy shelling in Sarajevo broke yet another cycle. Bosnian Serb forces are preparing attacks on other towns. There have been renewed calls for action by the civilized world. But are those clamoring for it prepared to face the cost? World leaders clearly believe they are not. Military action has been confined to an observer presence in parts of the country, now extended to Macedonia; cover for limited humanitarian supplies to a few towns; and, recently, enforcement of a maritime blockade in the Baltic. These are minor, fairly cheap steps. This weakness is recognized by the faction leaders. They believe that they can achieve their objectives long before any decision to prevent them is reached. But if they are allowed to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina among them, Kosovo and Macedonia will be next. Bloodshed and misery will grow. The stream of refugees will become a flood, epidemics will spread, and the conflict may engulf others. Left alone, the situation can only deteriorate. But world leaders are wary of military intervention, and with reason. It is liable to be costly in lives and resources, and the outcome would be uncertain. Three military options exist — and none is simple. In ascending order of gravity, they are the protection of humanitarian aid deliveries, the establishment of safe havens, and, finally, the enforcement of peace. The present small forces provide military cover for aid convoys in hopes of discouraging attacks on them, but they cannot respond to them. A more aggressive approach would be to secure certain supply routes and keep them safe for convoys. This would mean committing a far greater force: The 7,000 troops now deployed under NATO auspices would have to grow, say, to 20,000 or 30,000, with powerful air, artillery and other combat support and a large logistic undertaking. Yet this would be unlikely to stop the fighting. The next step therefore would be to establish havens for civilians. In order not to abet the "ethnic cleansing" process, this would have to be done in areas where the civilians have their homes. Outside forces would have to take up battle positions on tactical heights, enforce the no-flight ban, dominate surrounding countryside and assume responsibility for ensuring essential supplies for the survival of the population in the area. For a city like Sarajevo alone, a force of more than 100,000, as originally proposed by NATO's Military Committee, would probably be a minimum. This number would also provide for safe communications and supply routes to ports. At any step such forces risk being drawn into major combat, which ultimately means enforcing peace. This would require forces on the scale of the Gulf War. In such operations, an enemy has to be identified. But in this civil war, where different gangs are fighting for survival or supremacy, no central authority can be localized. Intervention forces would be unable to use high technology weaponry to strike at the heart of enemy power because it is so dispersed. They would therefore be involved in local engagements, be subject to heavy casualties, and noncombatants would be exposed to blackmail from all sides. As the conflict sharpened, the requirement for ground forces would increase, as would their losses. Civilians would suffer most, and the reaction against intervention could be violent. A Vietnam- or Afghanistan-like quagmire is a possibility. Still, the present slaughter cannot be allowed to continue. Assembling a major force would not only have the effect it would have had earlier, but it would demonstrate resolve. If combined with political action at the highest level it could be effective. A truly effective embargo would require involvement by Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. Troops would have to come not only from NATO members but from Russia and Ukraine. As a carrot, economic aid could be offered to those new nations willing to accept international mediation; a powerful mediating body could be established to define acceptable solutions. It would then be backed by a massive international force ready to strike at any who violated a cease-fire. Such action can be taken only by a truly united UN Security Council; that will require powerful leadership and considerable political activity. The cost would be great. But it would be infinitely smaller than that of ultimately undoing the chaos that threatens the Balkans and areas beyond. The writer is editor of NATO's Sixteen Nations, an independent military journal published in Brussels. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Rushing a GATT Accord Hurts America's Interest

By Robert Kuttner
WASHINGTON — Everyone can be relieved that a trade war between the United States and the European Community seems to have been averted. But before Bill Clinton and his administration-to-be break out the champagne, they should take a skeptical look at the broader trade deal being hurried to completion by the Bush administration. The tariff over EC farm subsidies has been one of several obstacles to completing the long-stalled Uruguay Round of global negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. American negotiators hope to crash through the remaining details by Christmas. There are two reasons for this haste: one political, the other legal. Politically, George Bush and his trade negotiator, Carla Hills, would love to bring home this final foreign policy trophy before they leave office. Legally, negotiating authority on trade is delegated to the president by Congress, and in this case it expires in March. If a deal is not struck by the outgoing administration, Mr. Clinton and his new team would need months to study all the details. They would almost surely have to ask Congress for new negotiating authority, which would further delay completion of the round. But that may not be such a bad idea. The worst negotiating position occurs when you are in a hurry and the other side is not. Every other party to GATT knows that the Bush administration is hell-bent to make a deal. The Uruguay Round was the Reagan administration's idea. It took that administration from 1982 to 1986 to persuade other nations even to launch the round, since the agenda was mainly America's, not theirs. Since 1986, America has had to make one concession after another to coax support from nations less eager to pursue trade liberalization. By now, all the easy concessions have been made — but Bush administration negotiators will have to find still more, to rush the round to completion. The European-American farm deal provides a preview of what such diplomatic logic requires. Two GATT legal panels had ruled that the European was improperly subsidizing oilseeds — soybeans and other crops used to make food oils. These subsidies prompted the recent U.S. exports of retaliatory tariffs on wine. Europe insisted on keeping some subsidies, so as a compromise the United States proposed overall limits on European oilseed production. The Europeans countered by offering limits not on output but on land devoted to oilseeds. But this means that as farmers become more productive, subsidized production will go on increasing. In the end, to get a deal the United States accepted the European approach. It is impossible to see how the larger Uruguay Round can be concluded without an array of similar U.S. concessions on a broad range of consequential issues. For example, the Uruguay package would give other countries easier access to U.S. markets in exchange for

Somalia: 'A World Disgrace'

By Anthony Lewis
NEW YORK — "There are a lot of bad situations. This is the worst. It is a national disgrace, a world disgrace." An old Foreign Service hand was talking, a man you would think intruded to disaster. But he was drawn to outrage by what is happening — and what the United States and the world are not doing about it — in Somalia. As many as 300,000 people have died in Somalia during a year of drought and intercommunal warfare. Hundreds of thousands more are on the brink of starvation, kept alive from day to day by relief efforts. The world, led by America, has brought in enough food. But gangs of armed thugs are preventing the relief from reaching many of those who need it. No relief effort is required to know what has to be done to save those human beings. Force — military force — must be used to protect the relief effort from the gangs. Barbara Smith, a registered nurse, was in Somalia for the International Rescue Committee last month. In a letter she described how horrifying the situation was even to a trained relief worker. "This is different from reporting about insufficient resources or a high rate of kwashiorkor," she wrote. "This is more like reporting about mass suicide or genocide... There is nothing in Somalia except the ever-present threat of violence." The sad fact is that the situation in Somalia is so dangerous and so complex (I do not use the term lightly) that the relief effort will be unable to prevent hundreds of thousands of people from dying if the violence is not stopped. A small United Nations peacekeeping force is in Somalia: 500 Pakistani soldiers. More are due to come from other countries. But that operation is essentially useless because UN peacekeepers by tradition operate only with the approval of conflicting powers, to maintain an agreed peace between them. Here there is no peace. It is all there is — no government to deal with, just gangs. The realistic alternative, one that can work fast, is for the UN Security Council to authorize the dispatch of national forces by member countries. That was the political-legal formula used in the Gulf War. A few thousand well-armed troops with a clear mission could make all the difference in Somalia. Their mission, it should be emphasized, would be to protect relief operations, not to settle the conflicts among the Somalis. "They should not intervene in the internal fighting," said Fred Cuny, an American expert who is playing a major part in the Somali relief effort. "This is a collection of blood feuds. Every family that has lost someone wants revenge. Outsiders cannot impose peace." What should be done, Mr. Cuny says, is for a military force to secure areas that are now relatively free of violence, make them absolutely safe, invite people into those areas to be fed — and then establish the Somalian government. He would bypass the capital city of Mogadishu altogether because it is too riven by gang warfare. Who is going to do the job? The troops need not be American (though the United States reportedly has offered to send up to 30,000). But in the world as it is, the leadership will have to come from the United States. Very little happens on such issues unless America moves. There is some understandable reluctance in the State Department. Officials agree that the situation in Somalia is desperate. But they worry about the precedent of intervention, about the appropriate limits of force. "I feel almost morally deficient when I raise those concerns," one person said, "but someone has to." But if thugs can stop the relief effort in Somalia, if more hundreds of thousands die, that will be a precedent, too. "This stuff is a virus," Fred Cuny said. "It can so easily spread to other countries and other conflicts, and our whole system of saving lives can break down. We've been involved in almost every major relief effort since Biafra in 1969, and I've never seen relief workers so frightened, so fed up. By definition they are dedicated people. But in Somalia they're asking me: 'Is it worth it? Why do we keep taking these risks? Where's our support?'" This is an issue that will not wait for Bill Clinton. The Bush administration knows that it is near a decision on what to do next in Somalia. Americans may ask, Why not? The answer is that being the world's only superpower carries a burden of responsibility. — The New York Times.

Dear Mrs. Carla Hills, Here in Somalia we have heard of the great oil seed surplus tragedy. Perhaps we can be of help

Dear Mrs. Carla Hills, Here in Somalia we have heard of the great oil seed surplus tragedy. Perhaps we can be of help

Developing Countries Are on Board

By Michael Davenport
LONDON — The developing countries as a whole are now strongly in favor of a Uruguay Round agreement at any other group, although at the outset they were less than enthusiastic. Some were worried about being required to open up their service sectors, particularly banking and insurance, others about patents and other aspects of "intellectual property," and most about the erosion of their existing privileges and derogations from GATT rules, their so-called special and differential status. The draft agreement that Arthur Dunkel, the GATT director-general, presented last December addresses some of their concerns. More important, they have reassessed the balance of their interests. They see significant gains in access to developed-country markets and are willing to open their markets to international competition in return, in some cases enthusiastically. Brazil, Zimbabwe, Mexico and India have undertaken broad programs of trade liberalization. Where tariffs are still substantial, significant export gains are available — as in fish and cut flowers, not major developing-country exports but important to particular countries. Overall, gains would be greatest in textiles and clothing. Exports of these are now regulated by the Multi-Fiber Arrangement. Under a Uruguay Round agreement this would be eliminated and trade would revert to GATT rules over a 10-year period. The gains would be unequally spread, with relatively low-wage producers, such as China, Bangladesh and the Philippines, best placed to benefit. Agriculture in the developing countries would gain from reduced dumping by the United States and the European Community of dairy, cereals, oilseeds, sugar and meat products. Latin America in particular would benefit from higher prices for meat, sugar and soybeans. Significant importers of these products, such as India, will lose in the short run. But higher prices will give Indian farmers incentives to in-

1892: London's Jobless

LONDON — A meeting of the unemployed organized by the South London Unemployed Committee was held in Trafalgar Square yesterday afternoon (Nov. 26). The chairman said that they had been able to meet in the square after the usual skirmishes with the City police. Mr. Shaw Maxwell called on the Board to provide free maintenance for children, and on Parliament to grant powers to the County Council for immediately establishing Municipal workshops for the unemployed.

1942: Pennies of Paper

BOISE, Idaho — [From our New York edition:] With the full approval of the government, the Boise Retail Merchants' Bureau will issue paper one-cent pieces, good for one stick of gum, in all city stores, or similar items. The United States District Attorney's office has sanctioned the scheme as a means of combating the copper shortage. Made of light cardboard and about the size of a postage stamp, the "paper pennies" will have a V on one side and an inscription designed to foil counterfeiters on the other. WASHINGTON — Treasury officials disclosed today (Nov. 26) that one-cent pieces would be minted of steel coated with zinc to free copper for war industries.

1917: Tatiana Escapes

NEW YORK — News is received by the Russian Committee of Relief for Civilians that the ex-Tsar's daughter, Grand Duchess Tatiana, having escaped from Siberia, is expected to arrive in New York in the beginning of December to take up relief work on behalf of Russia's civil population. It is learned that she facilitated her escape from captivity in Siberia by getting through a mock marriage ceremony with the son of Baron Fredericks, ex-Chamberlain of the Tsar. Having succeeded in reaching Japan, she left a Japanese passport for New York.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

World's...
Dealing...
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Also is...
some 65...
Also no...

OPINION

World Spooks: A Handy Guide

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — There is this "dead drop" in a tree in Farnham Square, just outside my office. Responding to a coded request in this space for assessments of intelligence agencies, some of the world's leading counterespionage have dropped off their evaluations of one another's espionage operations.

American dead-dropper, "while the Chinese send out tens of thousands of students and businessmen, each to bring back a pinch of sand." (3 cloaks, 1 dagger) Israeli intelligence, its mission given piquancy by national survival needs, remains strong on covert capability in its region and Europe, thin in Africa.



Russian external intelligence under Yevgeni Primakov is as active as ever worldwide. It uses a high-minded control of nuclear proliferation as cover but its mission is to leapfrog costly R&D by stealing military and industrial technology. (4 cloaks, 3 daggers)

Recalling the Gay Young Infantryman

By Lucian K. Truscott 3d

WASHINGTON — How times change. The words "A Gay Young Cavalryman" appear as the title of a song in the brief memoir my father wrote of his service in the U.S. Cavalry between the world wars.

spring day in 1951, when I knelt down and looked at the small round hole in the center of his wet gray forehead. I noticed some of the men in his squad turning away so I wouldn't see them crying as they put him on a litter. He was one of us, a soldier.

MEANWHILE

gay soldier. The rest of us knew that if nothing else he was effeminate. That and his red hair are probably why I remember him so well after all these years.

No, Civilian Rights Can't Always Apply

By William T. Corbett

STUTTGART — Most American military professionals contend that legalizing homosexuality in the services would severely impair military discipline, morale and effectiveness.

Americans harbor deep cultural and moral abhorrence for homosexuality. Legalization of gays in the military would surely bring belligerent assertiveness of gay liberation movements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Avoidable Tragedies Of Sarajevo and Somalia

The fighting around Sarajevo could be ended in a matter of days by an aircraft carrier task force and 200 assorted aircraft or less, with about one-tenth the troops sent into Panama in pursuit of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

in fact, the only leader to visit that unhappy land in an effort to focus world attention on its plight has been President Mary Robinson of Ireland.

How to Get Action A good tactic to get action from the U.S. Congress and the executive branch would be to link the pay of legislators, the president and his top political appointees to an economic misery index — the percentage of unemployed, the increase or decrease in the number of homeless people, the number of meals served in soup kitchens, and so on — and let their pay rise or fall accordingly.

allowing Japan to use plutonium as a fuel for nuclear reactors. The article demonstrates how easy it would be for Japan suddenly to renounce the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and start making bombs. If Japan uses plutonium to power reactors, others will want to do the same.

marvelous time junketing around Europe at public expense and were fawned over by compliant bureaucrats in the Foreign Service. The Republican president and secretary of state were too frightened to intervene, and the Foreign Service still bears the stain.

James Grant, executive director of Unicef, has said: "Somalia is the worst case I have seen in my 47 years of dealing with humanitarian problems. It is a battlefield with 8 to 10 warlords fighting each other, and young men driving around indiscriminately strafing anything alive, including children."

The Japanese Loophole: A Dangerous Precedent Regarding the report "Japan Hints at a Review of Plutonium Shipments" (Nov. 14) by David E. Sanger.

The Stains on State Forty years ago, two young troublemakers fresh out of law school were sent overseas by Senator Joe McCarthy to terrorize Foreign Service officers and U.S. Information Service employees by discovering that books about Russia could be found in libraries in Europe.

This Is the End, My Friend Regarding "For Bush, Final Days Can't Come Fast Enough" (Nov. 19): According to Anne Devroy, George Bush "does not much like what one side called 'the endless endings with no startings.'"



Hans van Oosterom, Executive Vice President Strategic Planning Akzo:

This small

"Dealing with Akzo means dealing with business units who are right in the forefront of their chosen field. So it may surprise you that we haven't the slightest inclination to become one of the world's largest chemical companies. We much prefer to be big in the areas we choose. Yes, we make acquisitions. But never just to grow bigger. Only if it adds value to our existing operations. Yes, we penetrate new markets. But only if we're pretty sure we can do a better job than the competition. We don't want to be the biggest. We do want to be the best. And for that, you have to create the right chemistry."

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CREATING THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY AKZO

LEISURE

By Andrew Ranard

From Bangkok to Singapore by Train

SINGAPORE — The railway station in Bangkok was crowded and chaotic. Outside, by the side entrance, crates headed for various destinations were stacked helter-skelter, and inside, families had rolled out mats on the tile floor, and with their water bottles in hand, ate dried foods, waiting for connections. The Thai Navy seemed everywhere; here and there I spotted traders with makeshift bags packed to the hilt with goods. The heat was impossible.

This was the hustling, inured Third World of peasant farmers and manual laborers, not Bangkok's glitzy scene of four- and five-star hotels.

My worries about my accommodations began to mount: second class with overnight berth. I was taking the Thai railway to Butterworth, Malaysia, where I would switch to the Malaysian line for the second leg of the journey to Singapore.

Once aboard, I found myself with a class of cross-border travelers with rising expectations who kept themselves amused with pocket Nintendo games, mobile phones, and Walkmans. The train only had first and second class, and all but one sitting coach contained berths. Mine was neither new nor particularly clean, but the air-conditioning worked, and the sheets were starched and spotless. The food was decent. What I was really looking for was companionship, and it turned out to be splendid.

"Ah, Thailand!" said the German machinist who had been in Asia since 1972 over a bottle of Tiger Beer in the dining car, a converted coach with tables, chairs and stools plopped into it.

Leaving Bangkok, we passed by the swamps, shantytowns and puddles of dirty water, then encountered suburbs of concrete houses and apartment buildings with the jungle creeping in. Now a near-full moon was out, and there was nothing but rice paddies. The dining car was not air conditioned, but the windows were open and a breeze played over us.

LIFE was perfect. "In Germany with the neo-Nazis it is now the worst, but Thailand!" the German exclaimed.

"In Thailand, I understand the mentality. Even if they give some rubbish, I just smile and go on. In Malaysia and Singapore it is different, but in Thailand, never 'puk-puk' [argue], cause trouble."

"I claim no country," he said. "I am a Berliner, a citizen of the world!"

He was smitten, by the heat, the tropics, nostalgia for bygone eras and the romanticism of decay. An adventurer. He had worked in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Singa-

poré. A cupped hand came up often to his mouth as he drew me into his conspiratorial world. "Videos," he said. He owned a private library of more than 200 back in Bangkok. "Lots of history," he said, documentaries. The history was mostly about the Germans and Japanese had done during World War II, and what the Ku Klux Klan was up to in the United States. It was possible that the heat had driven him a little mad.

"You know the video 'The Bridge Over the River Kwai'?" he asked when we got onto the subject of the railways of the world. "Yes," I replied. The cupped hand came up to his mouth. "They could not make the film in Thailand."

I wandered around the train trying to strike up "accidental" conversations. There was a tall, wiry, young man with long hair wearing a rainbow-colored shirt with an image of a Western couple embracing on it. There is nothing odd about long-haired travelers in Thailand or Malaysia, but they are usually Europeans or American. This man looked Indian. He was Muslim, he told me, and he did not drink or smoke, but he indulged my company for several hours in the anteroom at the end of our air-conditioned coach where I could satisfy my habit for tobacco. He was Indian-Malaysian. His parents were separated, and he had graduated not long before from university in Toronto where his father lived. He was on his way to see his mother in Kuala Lumpur. He had been traveling around the world for two years on the road and rails.

"Which country did you like the best?" I asked.

"Central Russia," he said. "The republics. Excellent people. Very friendly. I spent two months there."

HE offered his report: The people were mostly Muslim but they were not deeply religious. Smuggling and the black market had gone wild. In Tashkent, Indians and Afghans have set up extensive smuggling networks. The Indians fly their goods in from New Delhi and pay off the customs officials. You can see the dollars flying right out in the open at the airport as they argue and negotiate over price. And what are they bringing in? He had noticed saris. What else? He wasn't sure. But the smuggling and the black market were everywhere in the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially between Moscow and the republics.

About midnight I found myself scribbling notes, sitting on a tiny fold-out chair in the accordion space between coaches. The berths had been taken down and the passengers had

retired for the evening. I could smoke here also. The train made a stop and a young American woman carrying a backpack clambered on. It was pitch black outside and it seemed as if she had stepped right out of the jungle. She could not find an empty seat, so she settled down with me for a chat. She had just spent six weeks on Tao, an island off Thailand's east coast, and had made a hairy five-hour boat trip in the dark that evening to make this connection. Where is Tao? I asked. Did I know Phangan, the island next to Samui, the island tourist pit? she inquired. No, I didn't. Phangan is the "party island," she said. On the night of the full moon the hippies drop LSD on the beach. Tao is the hippies island out — almost deserted, a population of 900, with about two dozen expatriates who make a living as scuba diving instructors or a small tourist trade. She had considered staying there forever. But then there was her future — a choice of careers between medicine and science journalism.

MORE pressing was the problem at hand. She didn't have a seat and now I discovered that I was locked out of my coach. We were soon joined by two Indians, who had got caught in a card game. The American woman did not find a seat until 3:30 A.M.

and I did not get back into my coach until past 4:00 A.M.

In the morning, in Butterworth, I linked up with an elderly British woman and her traveling companion, an American woman 20 years younger who lived in London. This mismatched pair was a mystery; the British woman with a shock of white hair, a cane, two sun hats strapped to her luggage and the very un-American looking American woman who had acquired a touch of a British accent and Continental views. The traveler that Paul Bowles had written about in "The Sheltering Sky" still exist. They were heading to Penang for a hiatus in their railway trip, and so was I, so we took the ferry together over from Butterworth. They slipped from view on the dock on the other side.

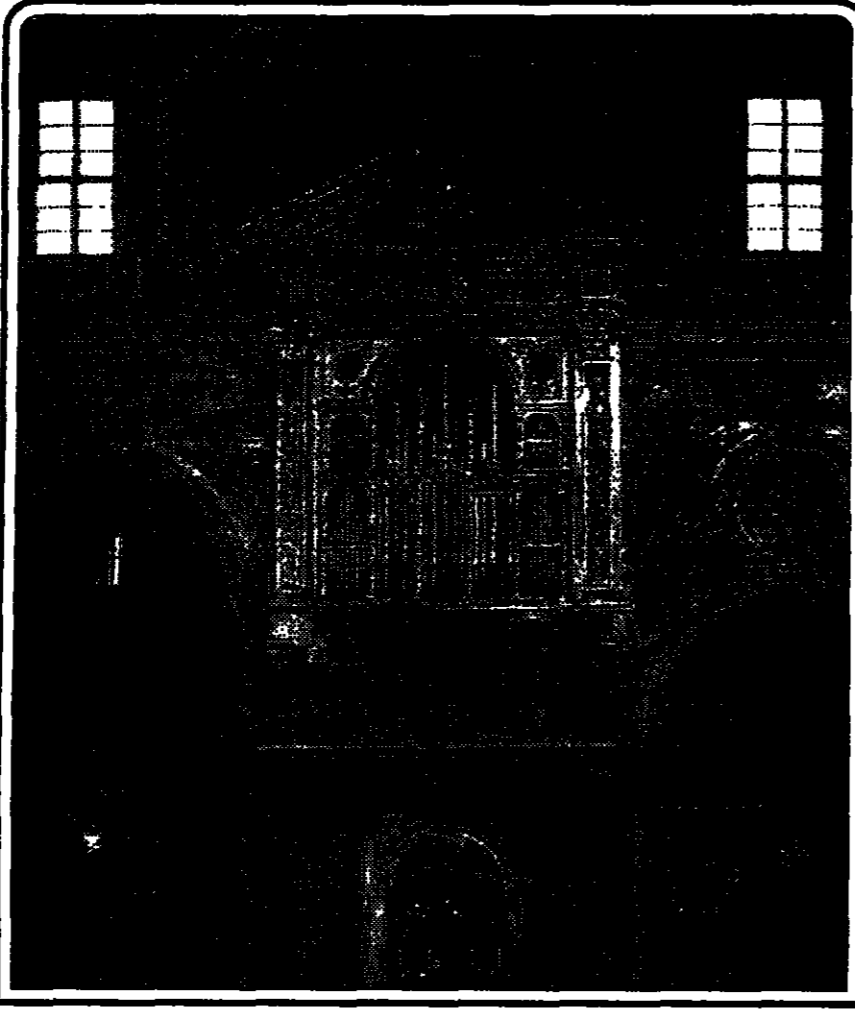
I LEARNED from the trip. The rather un-private second-class is the way to travel on the Thai-Malaysia railway. From Butterworth down to Singapore I bought the same class of ticket. This time everything was immaculate and new. Perhaps the mood of efficiency dampened the rest of the journey somehow, or perhaps it was that when I switched in Kuala Lumpur at 10:30 P.M., the berths were already out and everyone retired before we even started.

I closed the curtains to my berth and searched through my bag-bag for something to read. The train chugged along. I was wrapped in a traveling cocoon.

Andrew Ranard writes about Japan and Southeast Asia.

The Sound Of the 14th Century In Florence, An Old Organ Is Restored

By Ken Shulman



Restored organ in the Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata in Florence.

FLORENCE — In the mid-1400s, almost concurrently with the discovery of the art of perspective that would revolutionize painting in Tuscany and the world, the builders of church organs brought about a virtual renaissance of sound.

Like the visual revolution, this audio revolution was based on a new concept of space, both in the architecture of the instruments and in the type of sound they would produce. Unlike the previous Gothic organs, whose tones were restricted to a single register, the Renaissance organs added a "third dimension" to sounds with the addition of up to six separate registers, creating unimagined freedom for composers and musicians. And like the Renaissance revolution in painting, the birth of the new organ took place in Tuscany, making the region the point of reference for organists for nearly three centuries.

One of the finest examples of 16th-century organs still in working order is the recently restored one at the Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata in Florence. Built between 1509 and 1521 by Domenico di Lorenzo — one of the founding fathers of this art — and decorated with intaglios by Giovanni di Alessio, the gilded, six-register organ is the second-oldest instrument in Italy.

The Santissima Annunziata organ is the only di Lorenzo instrument that has survived in anything close to its original condition. The fate of Renaissance organs has been similar to those of that era's paintings and sculpture. Ill-advised additions and restorations have frequently modified the instruments in both appearance and in sound.

Over the centuries, the Santissima Annunziata organ has undergone a series of revisions and restorations that have inevitably altered its character. Three notes were added to the principal register in 1620 by a restorer, Agostino Vasconi. In 1763, a certain Father Vambert lowered the choral register by half a tone. But the most dramatic modifications occurred at the beginning of this century, when the flute register was lowered an octave and the original keyboard was replaced by that of a piano.

"You do not play a 16th-century organ the same way you play a pianoforte," asserted Pier Paolo Donati, founder of the Antique

Keyboard Instrument Restoration Workshop at Palazzo Pitti in Florence and the director of the recently completed two-year project to restore the Santissima Annunziata organ — and more importantly its timber — to its original state.

Like antique paintings, these antique instruments have a soul within them," says Donati, who was financed in his 70 million lira (\$53,000) project by Banca Toscana. "A soul that emerges depending upon their condition, and upon how they are touched."

"Restoring an instrument like this one is similar to removing all the repaintings and grime from a Venetian canvas to discover the bright, true colors that lie underneath. Sound and music also have their own color schemes. Translated into musical terms, this means that when we restore an instrument to its original state, we can finally provide the listener with a proper concept of the sound of the past, a sound which is often quite different from that which he is accustomed to hearing."

Aside from an overall tune-up of an instrument Donati describes as "magnificent," the most important aspects of the restoration were returning the flute register to its original position and replacing the piano key-



In rainy weather, the park emphasizes Christmas celebrations.

How Euro Disney Copes in Winter

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Euro Disneyland put on Christmas trappings this week, hoping to confound critics who say that the theme park east of Paris on a cold and rainy day is for the ducks.

To meet its attendance target of 11 million visitors in the first year, the loss-making enterprise needs to attract an average of at least 30,000 visitors a day. Judging from the vast expanse of empty terraces at the Disneyland park, it is not succeeding.

Nevertheless, Disneyland on a gray, wintry day has charms unknown to the fair weather visitor. The first is that the park is relatively uncrowded, which means that lines are measured in minutes rather than an hour or more.

Michael Eisner, the president of the parent Disney Company, argued from an early stage that central heating and open fires would attract Euro Disneyland's winter visitors in the same way that air conditioning pulls in guests during the hottest days of a Florida or California summer. The attractions and restaurants are indeed adequately heated, cozy and inviting.

But the company's claim that you can get around the park under arcades is an exaggeration. If it looks like rain, take an umbrella and a good raincoat.

In designing the park, Disney's "Imagineers" brightened up the paint tones so that the hotels and attractions would stand out

on a gray day. The result is that the park is less garish, and visually aesthetic on a sad winter's day, although this may not be something that the average kid may notice. But where are they? Most of the visitors these days appear to be adults.

When darkness fell during a recent rainy day, the park assumed an unsuspected charm with fairy lights and old-fashioned street lamps reflecting against the wet sidewalks and generally making the place look more intimate.

Disney's Christmas theme requires a high kitsch tolerance factor. Treacy carols and Mantovani-type arrangements of Tchaikovsky waltzes sound from the loudspeakers.

Main Street USA, Disneyland's central

mall, is sprinkled with pixie dust and spread up with thousands of ribbons, wreaths and decorations. Santa Claus with reindeer-drawn sleigh joins the familiar Disney characters.

The square pool in front of the New York Hotel outside the park has been turned into a skating rink resembling New York's Rockefeller Center.

Euro Disney has reduced prices at its hotels and campground, except on weekends and holiday periods. They range from 450 francs for a family of four in the economy Hotel Santa Fe to 1,600 francs in the luxury-class Victorian-styled Disneyland Hotel overlooking Main Street USA.

The resort's top three restaurants, the California Grill in the Disneyland Hotel, the Club Manhattan in the New York Hotel and the Steakhouse in the gloomy Festival area next to the park are all offering reduced rate dinners, but at 480 francs a meal they are still expensive. At that price, however, you are at least allowed to imbibe wine, beer and spirituous liquors banned from the theme park.

If you are planning a visit on a Sunday or a weekday, go early to get your money's worth. The park opens at 10 A.M. and closes at 6 P.M., which will give you less than 15 minutes to visit each attraction, assuming you take an hour for lunch. On Saturdays, it stays open until 9 P.M. From Christmas Day to Jan. 3, the park will remain open from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M., with the exception of New Year's Eve, when it will keep going until 3 A.M.

HEAR THIS

■ We know the world has changed when the French want to ban American books as indecent. A conservative organization called Avenir de la Culture says it is suing to remove "Sex" (by you know who) from the French market. The organization is unhappy for all sorts of good and true reasons, that the book, made a best-seller by a brilliant publicity campaign, is shocking and revolting and disgusting and shameless, and its heroine, too. Look at it with pity. There are no more Joyces, only Madonnas.

For investment information, read

THE REPORT

every Saturday in the IHT.

THE MOVIE GUIDE

L'Accompagnatrice
Directed by Claude Miller, France.
Miller, who Frenchified Carson McCullers' "The Member of the Wedding" in "L'Eden", now has his way with Nina Berberova's novel, transposing the story from post-Revolutionary Russia to occupied France. Sophie (Romane Bohringer), a drab and hungry pianist, accompanies the brilliant Irène, (Elena Safonova), shadowing her, spying on her loves, picking up her crumbs. Irène's trifter husband (Richard Bohringer) has his wife perform at Vichy, then changes his mind and opts for exile in London. Miller has a nostalgic take on the Occupation, as if it were a period when style made the man — collaborators slick their hair back and resistants never shave. This historical-cultural conception is full of false notes: Bohringer is not playing the piano, Safonova is not singing, Bohringer père plays himself, trapped by the script's stereotypes, none of them gets a chance to act. Which shouldn't prevent those who go to movies to listen to the music from enjoying the Bertoz, Massenet, Schubert and Schumann. (Joan Dupont, IHT)

Filming
Directed by John Duigan, Australia.
The Australian writer-director John Duigan continues to show the same mastery of delicate emotional states that he displayed in his previous movie, "The Year My Voice Broke." If that film displayed his promise, this one announces his arrival. This brilliant continuation furthers the story of Danny Embling (Noah Taylor), the troubled young hero who now finds himself at a prestigious boarding school in rural Australia, courted by a spunky Ugandan beauty named Thandie (Thandie Newton). Sound old? Not the way Duigan does it. His magic touch is a special tone, a uniquely personal color. With Duigan, what you see at first is not what you get. (Hal Hinson, WP)

Aladdin
Directed by John Musker and Ron Clements, U.S.
The fundamentals of this newest Disney studio animated feature go beyond first-rate animation both gorgeous and thoughtful, several wonderful songs, a wealth of funny minor figures and Robin Williams as the voice of the Genie. Only when it comes to the basics of the storyline does "Aladdin" encounter any difficulties. It may date back to the early 18th century, but the "Aladdin" story has a 1980s ring. Here is the ultimate get-rich-quick tale of a little boy (a cute, raffish thief in Disney's modified version) who has the good luck to be designated the only person able to retrieve a magic, Genie-filled lamp from a cave. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

Bad Lieutenant
Directed by Abel Ferrara, U.S.
Ferrara, whose gleefully down-and-dirty films include "Fear City" and "King of New York," has used his latest, "Bad Lieutenant," to ask: How bad can a bad cop be? One condition of Ferrara's cut states is that his

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THE ARTS GUIDE

Asia Frequent Flier Plans Take Off



Clockwise from left: "Young Roman Woman" by Liotard, Andy Warhol's serigraph, Etruscan lion head and "Mon Cirque," watercolor by Max Jacob in Paris; Matisse's "Vence Interior" in New York.

AUSTRIA
Vienna
KunstHaus (tel: 712.0465). To Jan. 31: "Expressionism." More than 300 Expressionist watercolors, drawings and paintings by artists from the Brno school, such as Ludwig Kirchner, Erich Heckel and Max Pechstein.

BRITAIN
London
British Museum (tel: 323.8525). To Jan. 24: "Europeans in Caricature: 1770-1830." Intended as a lighthearted contribution to the European Arts Festival, the exhibition focuses on the visual stereotypes that have influenced the way nations view each other.

DENMARK
Humblybak
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (tel: 42.19.07.19). To Jan. 3: "Pierre Bonnard." Retrospective of the works of the French painter.

FRANCE
Paris
Bibliothèque Nationale (tel: 47.03.81.10). To Jan. 17: "Des Livres et des Rois." Fifty-nine rare manuscripts chosen from the library's collection.

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works by Appel, Arman, Vasarely, Warhol, among others.
Grand Palais (tel: 47.22.20.42). To Nov. 29: "Botticelli." One hundred paintings on bullfighting by Florentine artist Sandro Botticelli, whose monumental sculptures are presented simultaneously in the gardens of the Champs-Élysées. Also, to Dec. 29: "Picasso et les Chocés." More than 150 paintings, sculptures, drawings and reliefs, focusing on the famous Spanish painter's technique with still lifes. Also, to Dec. 14: "Las Etrusques et L'Europe." The influence of Etruscan civilization on European culture.

GERMANY
Frankfurt
Städt. Kunsthalle (tel: 299.88.20). To Feb. 10: "Gabriele Münter." A retrospective of the German painter, at one time married to Kandinsky.

IRELAND
Dublin
The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 718.666). To Feb. 14: "Richard Hamilton: A Retrospective." A selection of paintings, reliefs and mixed media works.

JAPAN
Nagoya
Tokugawa Art Museum (tel: 935.82.82). To Nov. 29: "Picture Scroll of the Tale of Genji." This national treasure produced in the 12th century is only put on view once a year.

NETHERLANDS
Amsterdam
Stedelijk Museum (tel: 573.29.11). To Jan. 3: "Jeff Koons." A retrospective of the American artist's work, including grotesque objects in porcelain, wood, steel and glass, shining paintings and sculptures.

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By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune
THE race is on among Asian airlines to sign up business travelers in frequent flier programs. Since Qantas launched its Frequent Flyer about a year ago in response to gathering competition from megacarriers like United and Northwest Airlines, conservative airlines, which have worked to stem the spread of FFPs in the region, are now being forced to respond with similar programs.

Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Malaysia, and Thai International are negotiating a joint FFP, whereby mileage can be earned and redeemed for free travel on any partner airline. According to an SIA spokesman in Singapore, this could be launched by mid-1993, with eventual participation by half a dozen regional carriers, including Garuda, Philippine Airlines and China Airlines.

Mileage counting among travelers in the Asian/Pacific region seems sure to become as much of an addiction as it is in North America, and more recently, in Europe. Since American Airlines introduced the first FFP in 1981 in the wake of U.S. deregulation, they have become acknowledged as one of the most potent marketing ideas of all time — a global phenomenon. There are about 80 million FFP memberships in the U.S. alone.

The biggest program is American AAdvantage with 19 million; United is second with around 15 million MileagePlus members. A typical mileage junkie may belong to half a dozen FFPs.

Travelers earn free flights and upgrades — especially valuable if your company has relegated you for economy reasons to the back of the plane. Mileage that can be earned on long trans-Pacific flights means you get the sixth round trip free.

According to the London-based analysts Business Travel Monitor, more than 40 percent of Australian intercontinental travelers are members of United's MileagePlus plan. A recent IATA survey of trans-Atlantic travelers found that 21 percent of those flying business class had chosen that airline because of its frequent flier program.

The current FFP fever in the Asian/Pacific region is a reflection of what happened in Europe the year before when American, United and Delta really started promoting their trans-Atlantic routes with frequent flier programs at the forefront of their marketing plans. British Airways was quick off the mark with Latitudes FFP in April 1991, which was followed by KLM (Flying Dutchman); SAS (EuroBonus); Air France (Frequent Plus); Austrian/Swissair (Qualiflyer); Alitalia (Club Ulisse); Iberia (Iberia Plus) and SAS (EuroBonus); have rolled out FFPs during the last few months.



own FFPs or link up with other schemes. British Airways is absorbing its Latitudes FFP into the BA Executive Club, which will be available to residents in both Asia and the United States; Club Ulisse has been launched in Hong Kong; Air France is extending Frequent Plus country by country; and SAS launched EuroBonus in Asia/Pacific a month ago. Virgin Atlantic's Freeway program has a joint deal with Cathay Pacific: fly business class with Cathay Pacific; fly business class with Virgin between Los Angeles and London. Or vice versa. Or fly Virgin business class to Tokyo and get a free economy ticket.

Why have the Asia/Pacific carriers been so slow to get into the act? Most have relied on their high standards of quality and service, although they are often partners in a North American FFP for accumulating mileage and using awards. Cathay, Qantas and Singapore Airlines, for example, are partners in American's AAdvantage program; and All Nippon Airways have a tie-in with SAS.

Traditionally, Asian/Pacific (and European) airlines have sought to capture the loyalty of frequent fliers through executive clubs, membership of which depends on how much you spend or how many times you fly. They

typically have several hierarchical levels, with elaborately graduated benefits such as the run of an airport lounge, priority check-ins, priority in getting wait lists, toll-free unlisted reservation numbers, extra baggage allowance, hotel and car rental discounts, gifts, and all kinds of special offers.

Cathay, for example, has its Marco Polo club; Japan Airlines operates its Global Club for international business passengers, and Malaysia Airlines operates an Esteemed Traveler program. To join you must fly upwards of 30,000 miles a year with that airline.

Asia/Pacific and European airlines have typically developed fully-fledged FFPs by folding in the benefits of the executive clubs — they tend to be more specifically targeted toward business travelers paying full fare rather than the general catch-all approach of most North American FFPs. U.S. airlines are adopting ideas from the Asian/Pacific-European frequent flier executive club tradition through "elite" or "premium" levels (usually 25,000-60,000 miles a year) by giving recognition and preferential service, along with free travel awards, to very frequent fliers. With American AAdvantage, for instance, 25,000 miles brings gold, and 50,000 miles platinum status.

Qantas allegedly broke an unspoken agreement among Asian/Pacific airlines when it launched its Qantas Australian FFP across its entire network, rather than restricting it to the Australian/U.S. markets. But competitive pressure forced the issue.

AIR New Zealand followed Qantas in May with its Air Points FFP. Points can be credited for free travel or upgrading. For example, an Auckland-Los Angeles trip earns a trans-Tasman upgrade; business class Auckland-London round-trip earns an economy round-trip to any Australian or Pacific Islands destination.

For most Asia/Pacific travelers it usually makes sense to concentrate your mileage on two or three programs. Look for carriers serving your favorite hubs. And decide whether you are prepared to change the airline you normally fly for the sake of an FFP award.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Look for Promotions
Do look for FFP promotions: triple and even quadruple miles, plus short-term tie-ins with other airlines, car rental firms and hotels. Be ready to change the airline you fly on to reap rewards.

Residence Requirements
Don't forget to check if there are residence requirements for enrollment and redemption. And there may be time limits for redemption.

Check the Purpose
Do bear in mind what you want out of an FFP. If your goal is to take the family on vacation you want a FFP that has companion tickets, that lets you fly kids to visit from college in the States. Upgrades may be important.

Multiple Plans
Don't restrict yourself to one FFP. Some travelers belong to half a dozen.

Keep Track of Your Credits
Don't forget to keep track of mileage credits and awards, plus what you're earning for what program.

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Fax: 4122 255 24 54</p> <p>MUNICH SUPER LUXURIOUS House in forest with everything you dream about from swimming pool, garage, tennis court, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 floors, full kitchen, 100% view. 1200 HCR. VATH. Fax: 4122 255 24 54</p>	<p>REAL ESTATE FOR SALE</p> <p>GREAT BRITAIN</p> <p>SUSSEX Lovely 16th Cent. 3/4-bed room cottage, superb location in beautiful country village. Excellent commuting to London. 100% view. 1200 HCR. VATH. Fax: 4122 255 24 54</p> <p>LONDON Battersea Park. Charming 18th-century apartment off Prince of Wales Drive, 2 beds, bath, reception, kitchen, 100% view. 1200 HCR. VATH. Fax: 4122 255 24 54</p> <p>GRECE</p> <p>COUNTRY HOUSE Near Market. Opportunity, individual country house. 1200 sqm. on 1.650 sqm. land just 400 m from the sea. US\$200,000 only or the same country house on 770 sqm. land US\$120,000 only. For information Mr. Zampieri, Fax: (301) 28 14 340, Tel: (301) 28 14 629</p> <p>ITALY</p> <p>MAKE YOUR DREAM YOUR ADDRESS... 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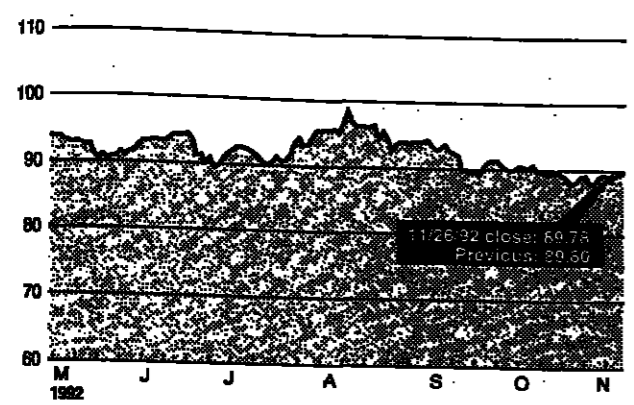
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Table with 3 columns: Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America. Includes closing and previous prices for each region.

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Oil Talks Stumble, Prices Fall

OPEC Ministers Far From Unity

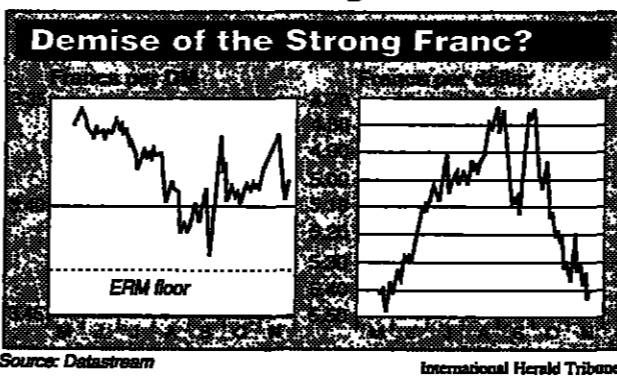
VIENNA — OPEC talks appeared near deadlock on Thursday and oil prices tumbled as the cartel struggled to reconcile competing demands to sell more oil within an output ceiling low enough to push prices higher.

January prices for the international benchmark crude, North Sea Brent Blend, fell 43 cents, to \$18.75 per barrel, as ministers said the group still had many differences. Oil Minister Hacene Mefti of Algeria said that a full agreement was unlikely soon.

The Political Story on the Franc

By Jacques Neher

PARIS — The French government insisted Thursday that the franc was strong and stable, putting its faith in Germany and equating the defense of the currency against speculators with a battle to save European economic and monetary union.



1.5875 DM Wednesday, against the Swiss franc, at 1.4328 francs after 1.4245, and against the yen, at 123.955 yen after 123.78. The pound fell to \$1.5205 from \$1.5260.

flecting its priority of maintaining a tight credit policy to fight inflation. In Paris, the finance minister, Michel Sapin, talked down any possible shift in the strong franc policy that has been maintained by the government since the mid-1980s.

Shake-up Is Latest Sign of Change at IBM

By John Burgess

WASHINGTON — In late October, one day before IBM was set to roll out an important new line of personal computers, the team that designed them got some disheartening news: IBM's rival, Compaq Computer Corp., had just staged a preemptive strike, lowering prices on its competing products.

new executives might succeed Chairman John F. Akers. These five people have been anointed in effect as the senior management team of the future.

IBM is changing, everyone agrees. The trouble is that to date, the new ways have made hardly a dent in the company's woes.

"It's still wait and see," said John Jones, an IBM-watcher at Salomon Brothers Inc. Mr. Akers remains firmly at the helm.

In ensuing hours, something uncharacteristic happened at IBM, a company normally as fleet-footed as a Soviet ministry. The PC team met hurriedly, recalculated costs and cut their prices to match Compaq's. They telephoned newspapers to change the dollar figures in full-page advertisements and the next morning announced the machines on schedule.

Then they told their boss of the changes. Move quickly, take responsibility. That is the mantra these days at International Business Machines Corp.

Management pledges that the company, still the world's largest computer maker, is on the road to winning back leadership and stable profits. Much of Wall Street remains skeptical.

Mr. Akers's rejuvenation plan attempts to See IBM, Page 12

GATT Sets Year-End Deadline

Negotiators Agree To Restart Talks

GENEVA — The top negotiators from 108 nations, brushing aside threats from France to ruin an accord on international commerce, agreed Thursday to aim for a new global trade treaty by the end of the year.

The negotiators gave Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the go-ahead to relaunch the long-stalled Uruguay Round of talks and approved a time frame set

EC officials grid for a battle over the Community's budget. Page 12

by Mr. Dunkel that would bring political agreement by Christmas and wrap up details next year.

The talks have been deadlocked for two years by a dispute over the European Community's huge agricultural subsidies. That dispute was officially settled between the Community and the United States last week.

But the French government has said it does not accept the accord, under which the Community agreed to cut back farm support and export subsidies to clear the way for the overall GATT agreement.

Despite France's threat of a veto and mounting protests from farmers, EC officials and diplomats say Paris has left the door open to a GATT agreement.

Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy has said he would only consider a free trade accord if it is approved by the French Senate that he could not accept an EC Commission report stating that the EC-U.S. farm-trade deal was within the bounds of this year's overhaul of EC farm policy.

France has insisted that last May's overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy should be the See GATT, Page 12

WALL STREET WATCH

Apparently, Comptronix Was Too Good to Be True

By Adam Bryant

NEW YORK — Until this week, the report cards on Comptronix Corp., an electronics company in Guntersville, Alabama, glowed with praise. The company's prospects in an expanding high-technology niche were judged most promising.

As recently as Tuesday, a Merrill Lynch analyst, Melinda Reach, rated the company above average. But Ms. Reach and countless others whose money and reputation were riding on Comptronix must have been dumbfounded Wednesday to learn that the company had suspended its three highest-ranking executives after they admitted last week to inflating the company's earnings for as long as three years.

"They seemed like pretty solid citizens to me," Ms. Reach said. The disclosure sent Comptronix's high-flying stock, which had closed Tuesday at \$22, into a nosedive in over-the-counter trading Wednesday. It plunged as low as \$3.75 a share before ending the day at \$6.125. The stock market was closed Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Comptronix is the latest addition to a list of companies that have been found within the last year to be purveying seriously inaccurate financial information. Phar-Mor Inc., a drugstore chain in Youngstown, Ohio, filed for bankruptcy in mid-August amid accusations by the company that the co-founder had embezzled money. And a year ago, the founder and chairman of Cascade International, a retail chain based in Boca Raton, Florida, vanished after a few analysts questioned the accuracy of his company's financial statements.

But someone who was either very lucky or in the know apparently profited from heavy trading this week in Comptronix put options, which are bets that a stock's price will fall.

A series of trades Tuesday and Wednesday, if made by the same buyer or buyers, resulted in profits of \$368,750 on an original investment of \$21,250. The Pacific Stock Exchange, where the options are traded, said it had completed an investigation that it forwarded to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Until Wednesday, long-term investors in the company were profit- See SURPRISE, Page 12

Nomura to Reimburse Losses on Risky Bonds

By Paul Blustein

TOKYO — Nomura Securities Co., which is struggling to regain the confidence of Japanese investors following a stock-market collapse and a major financial scandal, said Thursday that it intended to pay about \$185 million to 14,300 people who lost money in Nomura-backed real estate investments.

tom of the new Nomura," said Alicia Ogawa, a Salomon Brothers analyst who follows the Japanese financial industry. She added, however, that Nomura had simply made a "wise choice" in avoiding what might have been an ugly scene over the investments.

Nomura, the world's largest brokerage firm, said it would make the payments because its salesmen did not properly explain the risks of the investments, which involved big buildings in New York and Chicago. "The case was sort of a securities accident, as customers were not fully informed," Yasuhiro Mizumachi, the company's vice president, said. Accordingly, "we want to compensate for the losses."

The investments involved several hundred million dollars worth of bonds, backed by U.S. real estate, sold to investors in 1989 and 1990. Investors were told that the bonds had a chance of appreciating, but they were not properly told that the bonds also had a chance of losing much of their value, Nomura acknowledged.

The development comes amid repeated setbacks for Nomura and other Japanese brokers, which are suffering from the depressed Tokyo stock market and the lingering impact of last year's scandals. Along with most Japanese securities companies, Nomura was found to be using accounting tricks to funnel large sums to big institutional clients who had lost money on their stock investments.

The buyback must be approved by the Finance Ministry, which is reportedly investigating to see if Nomura broke any laws.

Thursday's announcement, which involves a pledge to pay big sums to big players, seemed to be in keeping with a new effort by Nomura to win back customers' business, analysts said. "I think this is kind of a sym-

A sharp decline in equities volume is behind the move. Prudential Japan's new focus may include U.S. mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, commodities and foreign exchange, said James M. Walsh, president and regional director.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES. Table with multiple columns for various currencies (USD, EUR, GBP, JPY, etc.) and interest rates (3-month, 6-month, 1-year, etc.).

Advertisement for WestLB, a German bank. Features a large image of a piano and the number '100'. Text: 'Introducing the German bank that offers finely tuned instruments in international finance: WestLB.' Includes contact information for various offices.

Advertisement for WestLB. Text: 'WestLB The Westdeutsche Landesbank'. Includes a small image of a building and contact information for various offices.

SPORTS FOOTBALL

Oilers Eke Out Victory, Lions Are Turkeys Again

The Associated Press
PONTIAC, Michigan — The emotional lift of having Mike Utley on the sidelines Thursday couldn't save the Detroit Lions from another fourth-quarter lapse.
 Lorenzo White's 8-yard touchdown run with 1:17 remaining gave Houston a 24-21 victory over the Lions and kept the Oilers' playoff hopes alive in the American Conference of the National Football League.
 Detroit, helped by a dramatic defensive play by Bennie Blades, had taken a 21-17 lead with only 2:57 left. But the Lions (3-9), who have been outscored by 99-66 in the fourth quarter this season, couldn't hold the lead.
 Cody Carlson, making his second straight start in place of the

injured Warren Moon, completed four consecutive passes for 75 yards to get the Oilers (7-5) to Detroit's 8. White scored on the middle of the next play, capping an 8-yard drive that took just five plays.
 Utley, the former offensive tackle of the Lions whose NFL career was ended a year ago by a paralyzing neck injury, was named an honorary captain and took part in the pregame coin toss. It seemed to give the Lions an emotional lift. But it didn't last.
 Barry Sanders rushed for 54 yards, with a 1-yard touchdown run, on 22 carries for Detroit. He also caught an 8-yard scoring pass from Erik Kramer.
 Kramer, who completed 12 of 21 passes for 163 yards, with two interceptions, also hooked up with

Herman Moore for a 77-yard touchdown.
 But William Fuller scored on a fumble return for Houston. Haywood Jefferson caught a 4-yard touchdown pass and Al Del Greco kicked a 30-yard field goal before White got the victory for the Oilers.
 Carlson completed 24 of 33 passes for 338 yards with two interceptions. The Oilers now are 5-3 in the games he has started over the years.
 Houston led by 17-14 when Blades broke in untouched and tackled the Oilers' punter, Greg Montgomery, at his 13 before he could get the ball off. Three snaps later, with 2:57 left, Kramer found Sanders underneath the Oilers' coverage and Sanders beat Al Smith into the end zone for his first receiving touchdown of the season.
 Jerry Gray picked off Kramer's pass for Mike Farr on the second snap of the fourth quarter.
 With Carlson completing 6 of 7 for 51 yards, the Oilers went 61 yards in nine plays for the go-ahead touchdown. With a third-and-goal situation, Carlson rifled a 4-yard scoring strike to Jefferson for a 17-14 lead with 9:44 remaining.
 Fuller's first NFL touchdown, on a 10-yard fumble return, gave the Oilers a 10-7 lead with 7:14 left in the third quarter. Bubba McDowell forced the fumble, hitting Kramer just before an attempted pass.
 But on the second play after the kickoff, Kramer and Moore hooked up for a 77-yard touchdown pass play, the longest for either of them in the NFL.
 From a second-and-5 at the Lions' 23, Kramer scrambled out of trouble, then heaved a long pass to Moore, who caught it over Cris Dishman at the Houston 35. Dishman fell down and Moore went into the end zone untouched, giving Detroit a 14-10 lead.
 Detroit got a 7-0 lead on Sanders' 12-yard touchdown drive over left tackle, his 50th career rushing touchdown.

Seton Hall And Indiana In NIT Final

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Calbert Cheaney scored 34 points and Indiana made 10 of 12 free throws in the final two minutes of overtime as the fourth-ranked Hoosiers best No. 7 Florida State, 81-78, to advance to Friday night's final in the preseason NIT college basketball tournament.
 Terry Dehere scored 27 points and sixth-ranked Seton Hall closed its game with a 13-4 run to beat No. 21 UCLA, 73-64, in Wednesday night's other semifinal.
 The Hoosiers (3-0) won the game but again lost Pat Graham, who missed all of last season with a broken bone in his left foot. X-rays showed the same bone — the fifth metatarsal — broken again.
 The junior swingman was the key player for Indiana in the second half, scoring all 14 of his points in the final 10 minutes of regulation. He missed more than a minute when he had to leave the game with a bleeding cut below his left knee, then was carried off the court with 20 seconds left in overtime, after a scramble under the boards.
 UCLA tied what had been a sloppy game at 60-60 with 4:05 left on two free throws by Ed O'Bannon. Jerry Walker hit two free throws with 3:29 left to give Seton Hall the lead, but Mitchell Butler's short jumper tied the game for the final time with 3:09 left.
 Dehere scored scored nine of Seton Hall's last 11 points, his 3-pointer with 2:49 giving the Pirates (3-0) the lead for good.
 UCLA (2-1) missed two free throws, made one of four shots from the field and committed two turnovers during Seton Hall's final run. The Pirates, meanwhile, made eight of nine free throws.
 Luther Wright, Seton Hall's 7-foot-2 (2.16-meter) junior center, had 12 points and 10 rebounds despite sitting out a considerable part of the second half with foul trouble.
 O'Bannon led UCLA with 16 points.



Kevin Lynch sneaked by Bill Lambeer and Olden Polynice as the Hornets stum the Pistons.

Celtics' Skid Ends in Rout Of the Bullets

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
 The Boston Celtics' six-game losing streak and their worst start since the year before Larry Bird arrived have been taken care of with an old-fashioned blowout.
 Behind Reggie Lewis's 29 points on 14-for-17 shooting, the Celtics shot 71 percent from the field in the first half and 62 percent for the

NBA HIGHLIGHTS
 game in a 150-112 rout of the visiting Washington Bullets on Wednesday night.
 Boston, which entered the game with a 2-8 record, its worst start since 1978-79, used an aggressive, fastbreak attack.
 "The Celtics played well, but I'd like to come in here with three or four starters and see how that works," said the Bullets' coach, Wes Unseld. "We had no defense. No chemistry. No continuity. No nothing."
 Washington played without starters Rex Chapman, Michael Adams and Pervis Ellison, all injured.
 It was the ninth time in Celtics' history that they have scored 150 points or better, the last coming in a double-overtime victory over Portland last March 15. It was the first 150-point game in regulation since Boston scored 152 against Indiana on Dec. 26, 1990.
 Rookie reserve Don MacLean paced the Bullets with a season-high 24 points.
 Suns 121, Trail Blazers 117: In Phoenix, Arizona, Charles Barkley scored 33 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, helping the Suns hand Portland its first loss of the season. The Trail Blazers entered the game as the NBA's only unbeaten team at 8-0, the second time in three years they have hoisted to such a fast start. Barkley converted 12 of 16 shots from the field.
 Nets 106, Lakers 98: In Inglewood, California, Drazen Petrovic hit two free throws with 42 seconds left to give New Jersey its first victory at the Forum in 14 years. The Triumph also ended a seven-game losing streak against the Lakers overall.
 Hornets 101, Pistons 97: In Detroit, Delf Curry scored 26 points and Larry Johnson added 22 to lead Charlotte to its fifth consecutive victory. The Pistons, who played without their leading scorer, Joe Dumars, absorbed their sixth loss in a row. Rookie center Alonzo Mourning blocked five shots, pacing a defense that harassed Detroit into 43 percent shooting from the field. (AP, UP)

Tide Rolling Closer To Bowl Showdown

The Associated Press
BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — No. 2-ranked Alabama moved one step closer Thursday to a national college football championship showdown with top-ranked Miami by smothering Auburn, 17-0, in the final game for the Tigers' coach, Pat Dye.
 Dye announced his resignation Wednesday night after 12 years at Auburn, the last two amid allegations of NCAA rules violations and questions about his health.
 "The NCAA this month charged the school with nine rules violations."
 The charges stem from highly publicized allegations made by a former player, Eric Ramsey, who charged 14 months ago that he received cash and other illegal benefits from boosters and coaches. Ramsey augmented his claims with a series of secret tape recordings of conversations he had with boosters, assistant coaches and Dye himself.
 "I hate to go out like this," Dye said. "I've been playing and coaching since 1952. I guess you're never ready, but it has to end sometime."
 Antonio Langham returned an interception 61 yards for a touchdown to break a scoreless tie in the third period. That typified a dominating performance by the Alabama defense, which leads the nation in all categories and held Auburn to 20 yards rushing and 139 yards overall.
 Alabama (11-0, 8-0 in the Southeastern Conference) will play Florida on Dec. 5 in the first league championship game for the chance to meet Miami in the Sugar Bowl. Auburn (5-5-1, 2-5-1) closed out the Dye era with its second straight season without a winning record.
 Dye's players were hoping to send their coach into retirement with his 100th victory at Auburn. Before the game, they walked slowly onto the field, each holding his helmet defiantly in the air in an apparent show of support.

But Dye will have to be content with four SEC titles and a 99-39-4 record at Auburn. Any emotional edge the Tigers may have had was canceled by a superior opponent.
 The Tigers stayed even until the third quarter.
 After taking the second-half kickoff and driving Auburn to the Alabama 39, Stan White attempted to throw a quick pass along the left sideline. Langham stepped out to tip the ball — and it came down right in his hands. He ran untouched to the end zone for the only touchdown he and his defensive teammates would need.
 Michael Proctor added a 47-yard field goal before the third period was over to make it 10-0. Third-string tailback Sherman Williams found the victory on a 15-yard TD run with 12 minutes remaining after a short punt gave Alabama the ball at the Auburn 46.

sparger said. "I told him, 'I didn't know I died.'"
 It is no surprise to Arnsparger fans that he has taken the Chargers' unit by storm. Last year they ranked 19th in the league in overall defense and 22d against the pass.
 Through 11 games this season, Arnsparger has brought the unit to third in overall defense, 10th against the pass and first against the run.
 "We'd been 0-4," said Bobby Beathard, the Chargers' general manager, recalling the beginning of the season. "We were floundering. But we had direction."
 Beathard and the Chargers' staff, led by the coach, Bobby Ross, have made 16 player changes this year and 38 since Beathard arrived in 1990. When Arnsparger came, he wrote two playbooks, one for a 3-4 front line and one for a 4-3 front.
 Until then, under the former defensive coordinator, Ron Lynn, the defense had been big-play oriented, attacking at all costs. The Chargers had also been losers, with a 4-12 mark last season.
 "We took a look at our people," Arnsparger said. "We put them in places where they could be successful and not ask more of them than what they were capable of giving us. That was our initial

job. That's why we came up with the four-man line as our alignment."
 "The whole premise of the NFL," said Gil Byrd, a cornerback who has been with the Chargers for 10 years, "is to take the good, the great athlete and make it as simple as possible. Some coaches coach too much. Arnsparger has kept it basic."
 The Chargers' defensive unit, with the average player age of 26.5, has allowed 257.5 yards a game. Their rushing defense has given up a paltry 79.4 yards per game. They are only the third team in league history to begin a season 0-4 and win the next four games. Arnsparger's explanations for the success of the defense is fundamental to football: team unity.
 "Our defense or offense is made up of individuals," Arnsparger explained. "If you have 11 people carrying out those assignments, you have a good chance of making something happen. If your defense is split, a long run will develop; if your coverage is split, a long pass will develop."
 "Of course, people are best individually. But for a person to be best individually, something else happened up front; for instance, a line that would enable the quarterback to have that much time.

Chargers' Defensive Whiz Arnsparger Is as Stingy as Ever

By Samantha Stevenson
New York Times Service
SAN DIEGO — Bill Arnsparger, the defensive master of the Miami Dolphins' perfect season 20 years ago, is back working magic on the sidelines in the National Football League.
 Since he resigned as athletic director at the University of Florida in January to become the defensive coordinator of the San Diego Chargers, Arnsparger has become a strong influence in positioning the Chargers for the playoffs for the first time since the 1982 season.
 Last Sunday, San Diego defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 29-14, and moved above .500 with a 6-5 record. This week, Arnsparger is devising a defensive scheme to stop the 5-6 Los Angeles Raiders, an American Football Conference Western Division rival.
 "This is an opportunity to go back to the sidelines, which I enjoy," Arnsparger said the other day.
 Arnsparger's hair has turned white and his soft Kentucky drawl matches his grandfatherly features. At 65 years old, the former coach of the New York Giants smiles at the notion that this job represents a new beginning.
 "Someone asked me if I felt born again," Arnsparger said. "I told him, 'I didn't know I died.'"
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Senators, Rangers Pull Off Surprises

The Associated Press
 The New York Rangers found a way to win in Pittsburgh, and the Ottawa Senators finally found a way to win anywhere.
 "We were a desperate hockey club," Mike Peluso said after scoring two goals as the expansion Senators beat the visiting New Jersey Devils, 3-1, Wednesday night.
 It was the first point for Ottawa (2-20-1) since a 2-2 tie against Buffalo on Oct. 31 and its first victory since a 5-3 opening-game defeat of Montreal on Oct. 8. The NHL winless record is 30 games, set by Winnipeg in 1980-81.
 The Rangers became the first NHL team to win in Pittsburgh in 21 regular-season games, routing the Penguins, 11-3. The Penguins had been 18-0-2 in the regular season at the Civic Arena since an 8-4 loss to Hartford on Feb. 27.
 Durren Turcotte's second goal of the game broke a second-period tie and started an eight-goal outburst for the Rangers.
 Adam Gault had three goals, Mark Messier had two goals and three assists and Turcotte had two goals and two assists for the Rangers.

DENNIS THE MENACE



DOES HE END UP WITH THE PRINCESS, OR DOES HE LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

PEANUTS



I DON'T KNOW... TO ME, 'LADY OF SPAIN' JUST DOESN'T SOUND VERY CHRISTMASSEY.

BLONDIE



ON BOY, HERE'S THE ONE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

WIZARD OF ID



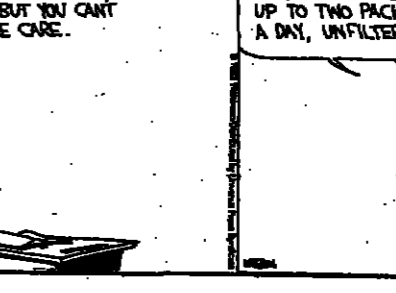
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LAY YOU OFF, SMITH.

CALVIN AND HOBBES



MISS WORMWOOD? YES, CALVIN?

REX MORGAN



WHO IS THIS CHARLIE PERSONS ANYWAY? I DON'T REMEMBER HIM LIVING HERE!

GARFIELD

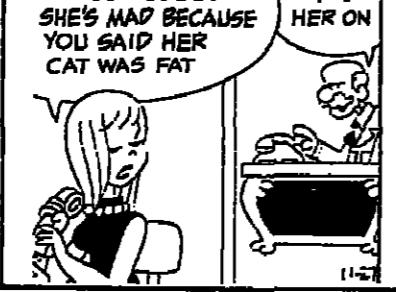


DO YOU THINK I'M GETTING A SUNBURN, GARFIELD?

JUMBLE

Unscramble these words and name the actor or actress who has been in each one.
 CATUE
 TASUE
 AJURAG
 HAIDAL

BEEBLE BAILEY



IT'S SGT. LUGG. SHE'S MAD BECAUSE YOU SAID HER CAT WAS FAT.

DOONESBURY



WELL, WORK RAISES A VALID POINT. DID HE REALLY GIVE UP HIS JOB?

DOONESBURY



I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT YOU PEOPLE LOSE THIS BECAUSE DANNY DROPPED HIS BALL, BUT THE CHAMPIONSHIP WENT TO THE BROT FROM ITT!

REX MORGAN



HE JUST APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE ABOUT A YEAR AGO! I'VE SEEN HIM AROUND TOWN!

REX MORGAN



DID BO TELL YOU WHAT BUSINESS HE WAS IN?

GARFIELD



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SPORTS SKIING

Ski Racers Brace for Opening of the Breakneck World Cup Season

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

Professional ski racers are almost as crazy as race car drivers. Anyone who requires a helmet to compete in a sport is automatically crazy. Anyone who risks his or her health as danger blurs past all around is also automatically crazy.

It is this beginning to sound like "Catch-22" yet? If the fastest racers were ever likely to enforce some self-preserving sanity, and decide to endanger their necks at the cost of a few additional milliseconds, then logically that would happen during a post-Olympic year. But not this year. This post-Olympic year happens to also be a pre-Olympic year, with a 1993 World Championship in Japan to be contested in between.

In the short, blurred, helmeted life of a professional ski racer, these figure to be the most intense, insane, indeed the most interminably-injuring (have we also mentioned that it's freezing?) three years in the history of the sport.

Although you probably need to have tried it to know for sure.

The World Cup season begins this weekend with men's events in Sestriere, Italy, and women's races in Park City, Utah. Austria's Peter Kronberger will be trying to win her fourth consecutive women's title, in spite of a sharp dropoff in victories last season. She, like the men's defending champion, Paul Accola of Switzerland, is favored by versatility. Accola and four-time overall champion, Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg — who at 29 is trying to return to form this year — are threats in all four Alpine events.

Once again, the championship is being conceded to their likes by the sport's lone world-wide name, Alberto Tomba of Italy. Tomba won nine races last year, more than Accola, but only in the slalom and giant slalom. Because Tomba declines to race for points in the more dangerous downhill and super-giant slalom, he has never won the overall crown. Last year, he finished second.

"They have dropped one giant slalom and

added two downhill and one super-G," said Tomba at his "State of Alberto" news conference last week. "They are doing all they can so as not to favor me. I can forget the overall title again this year."

Tomba predicted that 21-year-old Kjetil André Aamodt, a double Olympic medalist last season, will contend with Accola and Girardelli

A normal World Cup season would have dangers enough. But this post-Olympic year happens to also be a pre-Olympic year, with a 1993 World Championship in Japan to be contested in between.

for the overall men's championship. With the return of Atle Skarstad, No. 6 overall two seasons ago but injured in a fall at Garmisch, Germany, last January, the Norwegians are peaking toward a proud showing as hosts of the Lillehammer Olympics in 1994. They've improved each of the last three seasons, from just

two World Cup victories in 1988-89 to five last winter.

Sweden plans to take its time integrating the phenomenal Tobias Hellman into the World Cup circuit. Nine months ago, he won three gold medals, a silver and a bronze at the World Junior Alpine Ski Championships at Maribor, Slovenia, becoming the first to win five medals

the new Swedish coach, Jalle Forsmark. "The kid is just 19 and he'll get plenty of chances in the World Cup later this season to race against Tomba and the other guys."

The Americans are concerned about a recent ankle injury to A.J. Kitt, who last season became their first male winner since Bill Johnson and the Mahre twins eight years ago. Kitt hasn't skied since early November, but predicted he would Dec. 3 in defense of his downhill title at Val d'Isere, France.

Led by Julie Parisien, the world's top-ranked skier in the slalom, the United States will send a deep women's team to Park City. Hilary Lindh won silver in the Olympic downhill, Danni Roffe was a silver medalist in the giant slalom at Albertville and Heidi Voelcker appears ready to challenge Parisien in the slalom.

"It's as important as the world championships for us to start at home in front of friends and sponsors and family," said the U.S. women's coach, Paul Major, noting that the season's first month will be spent in Utah, Colorado and

western Canada. "This is the time when we can really change the face of ski racing in the United States by skiing well and, to be honest, pay back some of the support we've received over the years."

Carole Merle of France won the most women's races last year, but she finished No. 2 to Kronberger, who became the second woman to win three straight overall championships. (Anne-Marie Moser-Proell of Austria won five in a row in the 1970s.) While Kronberger won in every event in 1991 — earning seven victories as well as the super-G and giant slalom titles — she defended her championship without winning just two races last year.

A possible rival to Kronberger's versatility is Sabine Ginther of Austria, provided she has recovered from the broken bone in her back sustained at the Olympics. She wore a brace for three months after surgery, but expressed surprise recently at being in "such good shape" on the eve of the season. She finished second overall to Kronberger in 1991.



The damaged hull of Mike Plant's boat, Coyote; the British yachtsman Nigel Burgess, whose body was found off the coast of Spain.



British Sailor Dies In Solo Race, Hunt For Plant Is Ended

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The body of Nigel Burgess, a British yachtsman competing in the Vendée Globe Challenge round-the-world solo race was found Thursday off the coast of northwestern Spain, a day after he sent out a distress signal, French rescue officials said.

tached to the life vest he was wearing, they said.

His sloop, the Nigel Burgess Yachtbroker, and his life boat were both found earlier Thursday in the Bay of Biscay by the two Spanish helicopters that were involved in the search with a French rescue vessel, Monge.

Six of the other 13 sailors who began the race Sunday were making their way back Thursday to the starting point at Les Sables d'Olonne, France, to repair damage caused by violent gales in the Bay of Biscay, according to the Race organizer, Philippe Jeantot.

Competitors in the race are not allowed to stop or to receive outside help, but may go back and restart the race.

Searchers were able to locate him because of the radio beacon at-

Soccer Decries Racism in Italy, Germany

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Italian soccer authorities said Thursday they planned to tighten security and launch a publicity campaign to counter the increase in racist abuse in their stadiums, while players and officials in the Bundesliga condemned the neo-Nazi violence in Germany.

"We must not hide when confronted by the tragedy of racism," the Italian federation's president, Antonio Matarrese, said in Rome after chairing a meeting of the soccer authorities.

"We have to sound the alarm bells," he added. Italian officials were alarmed by a growth in racist attacks in recent months, which police believe are predominantly the work of young skinheads, dubbed

"Nazis," and thought to number only around 1,000 nationwide. But their activities have spilled into the stadiums up and down the country, with shaved-head youths giving Nazi salutes and chanting racist slogans.

Matarrese said security checks would be increased to prevent fans taking racist material into stadiums.

AC Milan's Dutch striker, Ruud Geffin, who has a Surinamese father and a Dutch mother, was taunted by Interazionale fans during last Sunday's Milan derby.

Geffin suggested that teams should refuse to play if their players were being verbally abused.

"I think many first division players want to do something concrete," Geffin said.

Lothar Matthaus of Bayern Munich, the captain of the national team, told the sports magazine Kicker that the latest right-wing violence in Germany, in which a 51-year-old Turkish woman, her 14-year-old niece and her 10-year-old daughter died Monday, "makes me sick."

All 18 Bundesliga clubs will wear jerseys with the slogan "peacefully together" in the last round before the winter break on Dec. 12 to condemn the violence.

The Bavarian fourth-division club TSV Giech also has asked all the teams in its league to wear black armbands during the weekend's matches to protest the racist violence and to honor the three persons killed Monday.

Matthaus pointed out that he

was a foreigner for four years when he played for the Italian club Internazionale and said, "We should welcome foreigners in the same way we expect to be treated."

"I don't want to travel into foreign countries full of fear."

England's Football Association said Thursday its Cup committee would meet Monday and decide whether to order a replay of the FA Cup match in which Peterborough beat the non-league club Kingstonian, 9-1.

Kingstonian's goalkeeper, Adrian Blake, suffered a concussion when he was hit in the head by a large crowd thrown from the crowd in Peterborough, then blacked out as he left the field, fell through a glass door and cut his hand.

(Reuters, UPI, AP)

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

Table with columns for Eastern Conference and Western Conference, listing teams and their records.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table with columns for Division I, II, and III, listing teams and their records.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Table listing basketball game results for Wednesday.

COLLEGE PRESSION

Table listing college football game results.

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

Table with columns for Eastern Conference and Western Conference, listing NHL teams and their records.

WALLES CONFERENCE

Table listing football game results for the Wales Conference.

SOCCER

ENGLISH FA CUP

Table listing soccer game results for the English FA Cup.

SIDELINES

United Obtains Cantona In Transfer With Leeds

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — French international striker Eric Cantona joined Manchester United on Thursday in a surprise transfer from British league champions Leeds. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Manchester United chief Alex Ferguson, who had failed to lure David Hirst from Sheffield Wednesday, said "we looked around at strikers we rated and who might be available. I tried Leeds and was delighted when they agreed to release Cantona."

Cantona started the season strongly at Leeds and became a crowd favorite for his goal-scoring skills. However, he gradually became ineffective and lost his spot among the starting 11.

Australia Golf: Surprise Star

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Peter Teravainen, an American who lives in Singapore, shot 6-under-par 66 Thursday to upstage some of the biggest names in golf in the first round of the Australian Open.

Teravainen, 36, held a one-stroke lead over Lee Janzen of the United States and Australian Wayne Grady, Wayne Riley and Peter McWhinney.

American-based Australian Steve Elkington, Scottish star Colin Montgomerie and Australian Rob Farley and Jon Evans shot 69. From the U.S. tour, Raymond Floyd carded 70 and Mark Calcavecchia 74. Craig Parry, seeking to win the Australian Masters, PGA and Open titles in one year, shot 72.

Japan Golf: Lyle Shares Lead

KAIMONCHO, Japan (AP) — Scotland's Sandy Lyle and Japan's Yoshihiro Mizumaki each shot 2-under-par 70 Thursday to share the first-round lead in the Casio World Open.

Lyle made a 100-foot (30-meter) eagle putt on No. 18. Mizumaki birdied two of the last three holes.

Mark Brooks led the 10 U.S. players in the field with 74. Tom Lehman and Larry Nelson shot 75. John Daly, David Peoples and Mike Reid each 76.

Gubicza Stays With Royals

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Free-agent pitcher Mark Gubicza, who said he wants to finish his major league career with the Kansas City Royals, signed a one-year, \$1.25 million contract with the club.

Gubicza, who is 20-8 in 1988 with the Royals, went 7-6 with a 3.72 earned-run average last season after he came back a rotator cuff injury in 1990.

The New York Yankees said they had made and withdrawn multimillion-dollar offers to pitchers Doug Drabek, David Cone and Jose Guzman. "If we haven't

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CRICKET

SECOND TEST

South Africa vs India: First Day. The match was a draw.

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OBSERVER

Manhattan Vignettes

By Russell Baker
NEW YORK — "Have a heart" is the command of the young moocher with his palm up on Eighth Avenue. What ever happened to "Grease my palm?" This palm is attached to a body so young, athletic and full of sass that its operator can't possibly be a beggar, can he?

Drive from Holland Tunnel north to Murray Hill through chasms-stuttering vistas of devastation. Constant games of "chicken" with cab drivers during fights to squeeze three lanes of Hudson Street traffic into one, with loser forced to choose between plunging into bottomless excavations or crushing death-defying bicyclists against double-parked cars.

Robben Ford and His Blues Line: SH-BAM!

By Mike Zwerin
PARIS — Two multinational record companies dropped Robben Ford under more or less identical conditions. They signed him, recorded him, forgot about supporting and promoting him, and then said he doesn't sell. In the meantime he was touring with George Harrison, Joni Mitchell, David Sanborn and Miles Davis.



Roscoe Beck (left), Robben Ford and Tom Brechlein: "This band is about getting back to going out there and burning," says Brechlein.

That's our ground, much more than jazz. But, if anything, I view this band as being in the tradition of the way Miles Davis's groups developed. He played very traditional music for a very long time. This is a creative process. We are not going to stay in the same place. There's a lot of variety here. We're influenced by anything we hear. We want to translate those influences into different colors.

PEOPLE

China's Cui Jian Joins The 'Sue 'em' Crowd

The "sue 'em" era has reached China's entertainment industry, still learning the ropes. Cui Jian, the Chinese king of rock 'n' roll, is one of the first Chinese stars to use new copyright laws against musical pirates, and his targets are two state-owned companies. He is suing them for libel and illegal printing of his work. Cui accuses the author and publishers of "Cui Jian — A Cry from Nothing to My Name" of character defamation and has demanded \$65,000 for financial and "spiritual damages."

Table with weather forecasts for Europe, Asia, North America, Middle East, and Latin America. Columns include location, today's high/low, and tomorrow's high/low.

Table with weather forecasts for Africa, North America, and Latin America. Columns include location, today's high/low, and tomorrow's high/low.

CROSSWORD puzzle section including clues for Across and Down, and a solution to the puzzle of Nov. 26.

BRIDGE section featuring a card game layout with North, South, West, and East hands, and a commentary on the play.

STELLA: One Woman's True Tale of Evil, Betrayal, and Survival in Hitler's Germany. By Peter Wyden. 387 pages. \$23. Simon & Schuster.

Books section featuring Stella by Peter Wyden, discussing the author's personal connection to the story and the historical context of the Holocaust.

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Large advertisement for AT&T USADirect Service, featuring a globe and the slogan "Get your point across in no time." Includes a list of international phone numbers and contact information.